

Islamists kill 24 more in Algeria — press

ALGIER (AFP) — At least 24 people have been killed in new massacres blamed on Islamists in Algeria, newspapers reported Monday. A family of seven traveling Friday to Mascara from the northwestern port of Oran was forced to stop at a fake checkpoint by armed Islamists who slit their throats, the Al Khabar daily reported. The killers stopped two other people nearby and also slit their throats, the paper said. Since July 15, a total of 449 people have been massacred in Algeria, according to a toll compiled by AFP from press reports. According to foreign estimates now more than one-year-old, more than 60,000 people have died in Algeria since the military-backed government cancelled January 1992 elections that the Islamic Salvation Front, now outlawed, was about to win. Algerian opposition parties say the death toll is closer to 100,000.

Volume 22 Number 6613

ANMAN TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1997, RABI II 16, 1418

Price: Jordan 200 Fils

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز: يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرابي

King calls on Prince Rashed

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday called on His Royal Highness Prince Rashed Ben Al Hassan and his friend Zeid Omar Bdeir who are both recuperating at the King Hussein Medical Centre after sustaining injuries in a car accident on Wadi Araba Highway last Friday. The King was reassured by doctors that their condition is stable. Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath received the King along with members of the Royal family and dignitaries.

U.S. delegation touring region makes a stop in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — A U.S. Congress delegation led by Benjamin Gillman arrived here Monday on a two-day official visit during which they will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials. The American delegation is on a tour in the region.

Israeli post heavily damaged in Hizbollah attack

BEIRUT (AFP) — Hizbollah guerrillas launched a heavy rocket and mortar attack against an Israeli army outpost in south Lebanon early Monday, causing extensive damage but no casualties, officials said. The outpost, located in the eastern sector of the buffer zone Israel occupies along Lebanon's southern border, was hit by anti-tank rockets, Sagger missiles and mortar shells, an Israeli army spokesman said in Tel Aviv. The Iranian-backed Hizbollah said in a statement received here that "the main fortifications at the position were destroyed" in an attack using "anti-tank rockets and automatic weapons." There has been an upsurge in fighting in southern Lebanon since the start of the month, with one Israeli soldier and 14 Lebanese being killed. Israel has also carried out a number of air raids against positions of Hizbollah and other anti-Israel groups operating from Lebanon. Hizbollah spearheads armed resistance against the Israeli occupation.

Kuwait to inspect imported meat for bacteria

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait will inspect imported meat for E. Coli bacteria after a U.S. firm recalled 540,000 kilograms of hamburger due to possible contamination, a newspaper reported on Monday. "The municipality will coordinate with the health ministry to inspect the origin of imported meat," Abdul Rahman Al Houti, chairman of the municipal council, told Al Watan newspaper. "The concerned authorities will not hesitate to confiscate any amount of meat," he added. On Friday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture ordered Hudson Foods Inc. to recall some 1.2 million pounds of frozen ground beef from the U.S. market for fear of contamination with a deadly strain of E. Coli. Kuwait's public health ministry laboratories will start inspection of imported meat Tuesday, said Watan. Officials said some Kuwaiti food firms imported meat from the U.S.

Egypt hands over to Bahrain fugitive wanted on murder charge

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has handed over to Bahrain a fugitive Bahraini national wanted in connection with murder and arson, the Egyptian news agency MENA reported Monday. It did not say when the handover took place but said that the suspect was apprehended and arrested in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria. The Egyptian authorities arrested the suspect, who "admitted his crime," after receiving a request from Bahrain, MENA said.

King calls on citizens to exercise rights in 'free and fair' elections

TAFLEH (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Monday that the parliamentary elections in November will be free and fair, and the door will be open for observers to monitor elections and see how the people of Jordan lay the foundations for the democratic process in their country.

Addressing a rally in the town of Tafleh, in southern Jordan, where he was accorded a tumultuous welcome, the King said: "The coming elections will be exemplary as I promised you and it will be similar to the previous elections. The door is open for anyone from any place to come and monitor the election process because we want others to learn from us and to see how the Jordanian people contribute to laying the foundations of the democratic march and their future."

The King said the elections will be held on schedule but will be preceded by the dissolution of the 12th Parliament.

"Anyone who finds himself eligible to run should



His Majesty King Hussein upon his arrival in Tafleh is received by thousands of cheering citizens. Last week, the King visited Aqaba and Ma'an as part of his continuous efforts to call on the Kingdom's governorates in order to study their needs and answer their questions (Photo by Yousef 'Allan)

nominate himself for the coming battle alongside other candidates," said the King, noting that the registration of voters in the past week exceeded all expectations.

Referring to dialogue with the opposition, the King said, "dialogue has been going on amongst us and will not stop because it is not a dialogue among enemies but rather among

brothers who are trying to serve the common interests of the country. It is a dialogue based on mutual respect between the people."

Referring to the Muslim Brotherhood who decided to boycott the elections, the King said, "I must reiterate the Muslim Brotherhood had attained the present status because they had chosen the right road of work and

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Israel to transfer part of frozen funds to PNA; Masri demands full amount

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Rewarding Palestinian security cooperation, Israel decided Monday to release to the Palestinians 30 per cent of the tax refunds it had frozen after a suicide bombing in a Jerusalem market.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approved the money transfers after the Palestinians provided some help in the investigation of the July 30 bombing that killed 16 people, including two assailants, a statement by Netanyahu's office said. Palestinian security officials also helped Israel find the body of an Israeli taxi driver who was abducted and killed by Palestinian car thieves in the West Bank last week.

In all, some \$7.5 million would be paid, Netanyahu aides said. The figure is much lower than the \$70 million the Palestinians say Israel owes them in total. The sum includes tax refunds, such as value-added tax on goods Palestinian merchants buy from Israeli wholesalers.

The decision to pay some money "is a partial step in

response to partial steps by the PNA," the Israeli statement said.

"We got the information we asked for on the terrorist strike and we are releasing the money according to a sliding scale," said Mr. Netanyahu's senior adviser, David Bar-Illan.

However, Mr. Bar-Illan said, the Palestinians have not cracked down on Islamists operating in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "For us, this is the most important thing," he said.

The government said it would further ease restrictions imposed on the Palestinians if Palestinian President Yasser Arafat crushed the infrastructure of terror groups. Mr. Arafat said he believed the two bombers in the Jerusalem attack were sent from abroad.

A British newspaper reported that the head of Israel's Shin Bet security service is currently meeting with colleagues in London to investigate suspicions that the bombers entered Israel with British passports.

The Palestinian Economic Minister Maher Masri,

Egypt, PNA discuss future of peace process

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa on Monday held talks here with Palestinian International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath on ways of saving the peace process from collapse.

"Egyptian-Palestinian coordination is the main base for saving the peace process," Mr. Shaath said. He said he discussed with Mr. Musa the future of the peace process as well as an expected visit to the region in September by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright which he described as "important."

Ms. Albright said this month that she would be coming to the region to help bring Israel and the Palestinians back to the negotiating table following the double suicide bombing in a Jerusalem market last month which killed 14 Israelis.

"Israel's policies, its actions against the Palestinian people such as the [economic] blockade, the destruction of homes and settlements are the real threat to the peace process," Mr. Shaath said.

"Israel is waging a war of hunger on the Palestinian people," he stressed.

said Israel's decision to release some tax refunds was not enough. "We don't accept these compromises. We need to be paid in full, and we need to be paid on time," Mr. Masri told the Associated Press.

The U.S. had pressured Israel's government to resume the money transfers, saying the measure was counterproductive to

efforts to resume stalled peace talks.

In a sign of renewed security cooperation, Israeli, Palestinian and American security officials met Sunday to discuss the investigation of the bombing. Israel radio said the atmosphere was so good that the

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Israeli police indicted for beating Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Three Israeli paramilitary border policemen were charged on Monday with kidnapping and assaulting two Palestinians earlier in the month.

An indictment released by the justice ministry said the policemen took the two men to an isolated wood where they continually beat them, hitting them on the head, chest and limbs.

They were rounding up Palestinians who had entered Israel without permits in the face of a closure imposed on the West Bank after a July 30 suicide bombing in Jerusalem.

The indictment said the policemen tied the legs of one of the men with a rope

attached to their jeep and dragged him several metres.

The policemen continued to brutalise the other Arab "even after he began to beg to show him mercy because he suffered from heart problems," the charge sheet said.

Israel's Channel One Television broadcast several days ago an interview with the two Palestinians, Ahmad Moussa and Mahmoud Ghneim, who lay side by side in hospital.

During the interview Mr. Moussa, breathing heavily through a hospital mask, said, "each one of them carried a club and administered beatings. One of them asked me if my chest was

all right and hit me in the chest. There were three who hit me."

"One of them pointed an M-16 rifle at my head — he pointed the rifle next to my ear and told me, 'now you'll get out of here. If I see you again, I will kill you. You must die.'"

In a separate incident earlier this month an Israeli court sentenced to eight months in jail two other border policemen filmed brutalising Palestinians.

The videotape showed the two policemen kicking some of the Palestinians in the head, kneeling one in the stomach, forcing others to do push-ups and riding one man like a donkey.

Tunisia asks representative to leave Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Tunisia has ordered the head of its 15-month-old interest office in Israel to "leave quietly" and return home, an Israeli newspaper reported Monday.

Khamis Ginawi told Yediot Ahronot he received instructions two weeks ago from the Tunisian foreign ministry to leave Israel. He was expected to return home this weekend, Yediot Ahronot said. The report signalled a further deterioration in the relations between Israel and the Arab World since the collapse of the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Since the historic accords between Israel and the PLO in 1993, Israel had developed ties to several Arab countries.

Politicians call on government to exert more effort in dialogue for sake of democratic march

By Sa'eda Kilani
Jordan Times Staff
Reporter

AMMAN — The government should exert further efforts and show more willingness to smooth over differences with the opposition in order to preserve the democratic march from collapse, politicians say.

Independent personalities from different political shades Monday cast doubt on the seriousness of the government in initiating political reform and adopting initiatives to defuse tension in the political atmosphere. Although politicians, interviewed by the Jordan Times, expressed mixed feelings vis-a-vis the outcome of the prospected dialogue between the government and the opposition, they all agreed that the government of Abdul Salam Majali has to show more willingness to take drastic changes and not only talk about them.

"What does the government mean by 'undebatable issues'?" Does this statement show the government's seriousness in reaching a common ground with the opposition? questioned former deputy Fares Nabulsi. "In this (indifferent atmosphere) there is nothing

called dialogue."

Lawyer Nabulsi, who signed along with around one hundred political personalities a statement criticising what they called a major setback for democracy, expressed little hope in the "change of attitude" of the government towards promoting public freedoms and enhancing democracy.

He even said that the statement, in which political personalities threatened to boycott the upcoming parliamentary elections unless the government takes drastic moves to change the status quo, comes at a late time.

"The decision to boycott the elections (by the Muslim Brotherhood, opposition parties, and politicians) should have been taken four years ago when the temporary one-person, one-vote electoral system was imposed," Mr. Nabulsi said. "Now it is too late."

In the statement, signed by several prominent personalities including former prime ministers Ahmad Obeidat and Taher Masri and released on Sunday, politicians accused the government of abusing and using powers uncontrollably. Not only that, "but the Constitution and the law have become tools in the

hands of any government to be used as a basis for arbitrary action and imposing more restrictions on the people, especially the backward Press and Publications Law."

"Because the parliamentary elections are considered one of the pillars of real democracy, the first prerequisite to the practice of this right is the ensurance of real and equal chances for all citizens. Otherwise, the parliamentary system will turn into one form of disguised tyranny," said the statement.

But, "instead of respecting the different political opinions in the framework of national dialogue and freedom of expression, the government started to classify people in accordance with their political affiliation, whether they are supporters or opponents of the regime... in the light of this regression, we warn against the application of the one-person, one-vote electoral system that will exacerbate national unity and tarnish the image of democracy. The dominance of these circumstances urge us to boycott the elections, in nomination and in voting," the statement added.

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UNICEF sees peril in falling aid to developing countries

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is deeply concerned by new figures showing that aid to developing countries fell to an all-time low in 1996.

Carol Bellamy, UNICEF's executive director, said Monday.

Despite a steady rise in the number of people with incomes of less than \$1-a-day, overall aid to developing countries last year tumbled four per cent in real

terms over 1995, to \$55.1 billion from \$58.9 billion, according to a report released by the 29-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

"Let us be clear about what is at stake here," Ms. Bellamy said. "These are more than numbers in an accounting ledger; they represent a threat to millions of children and to the societies in which they are growing up. They are a tes-

tament to the persistence of appalling global inequalities — and to the international community's shameful failure to eradicate them."

Ms. Bellamy noted that, according to U.N. estimates, 1.3 billion people are trapped in absolute poverty — 650 million of them children — and their numbers are growing in every region of the world

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A Palestinian woman shouts at Israeli troops that prevented her from going to her family home Monday as an army bulldozer tears down a recently built wing of it (Reuters photo)

Israel's army continues to demolish Palestinian homes

HEBRON (AFP) — The Israeli army demolished three Palestinian homes near Hebron Monday, pursuing its drive to destroy Arab houses built without formal permits from the occupation authorities, witnesses said.

The first house destroyed belonged to Mohammad Shahadeh Rajabi, 33, and was built near a by-pass road used by settlers from Kiryat

Arba, a Jewish settlement north of Hebron.

The second home belonged to Naaman Imram Shabani, 60, and was uninhabited, while the third home was in the village of Beit-Umr and belonged to 40-year-old Nabil Abu Ayash, witnesses said.

Israeli policy is to destroy Arab homes and other structures built without govern-

ment permits in the occupied territories.

Palestinians complain that the authorities rarely grant such permits even when requested. There had been a lull of several months in the demolitions, apparently to avoid worsening tensions between Israelis and Palestinians sparked by widespread construction of Jewish settlements.

Agenda-21 project hosts media workshop

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Agenda-21 project hosted a one-day media workshop Monday in order to introduce its objectives and highlight sustainable development concepts.

"We hope that sustainable development will become part of our daily vocabulary," Agenda-21 Project Manager Dr. Riyad Musa maintained. "The media is an important tool in spreading sustainable development awareness."

He described sustainable development as utilizing natural and human resources in a way that such might last for a long period.

Agenda-21 stems from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit whose "aim was to find an equitable balance between the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations while focusing on sustainable development," Dr. Musa stated.

Therefore, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched Agenda-21 in Jordan, in cooperation with the General Corporation for Environmental Protection (GCEP), in 1996.

Agenda-21 is a national project incorporating both official and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in all fields relating to sustainable development.

"The project is directed towards forming a national policy for sustainable development in Jordan for the next century," said GCEP acting General Director Faris Junaidi.

According to Dr. Musa, six task forces have been formed to encourage sustainable development in Jordan. The workshop fell within the awareness, media, education, and information category.

Other task forces, he said, include the sustainable management of natural resources and energy, environmental management, pollution control and public health.

"Base-line reports and the agenda are in the process of being finalised," Dr. Musa explained. "Work has been divided amongst task forces. These work in all areas of sustainable development ranging from natural resources to public health."

Agenda-21 targets women as important agents in sustainable development. This project defines women as managers of the environment and as such they influence society, Dr. Musa asserted.

"National experts are preparing the country's priorities for the coming century," he added.

Currently, Agenda-21 is embarking on an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system for Jordan.

"Jordan does not currently hold its own EIA system, but employs donor systems from USAID, and the World Bank," Dr. Musa said. "This is another method of sustainable development."

Al Amal Cancer Centre bemoans lack of patients

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government must assist Al Amal Cancer Centre in offering cancer therapies and cease referring patients for treatment abroad, Minister of Social Development Mohammad Mamser stated Monday.

He said that government departments and public hospitals have heretofore referred no cancer patients to the centre, and have instead directed these for treatment abroad.

Other patients, Dr. Mamser said, have been interned in private hospitals for treatment.

Medicine and drugs found at the centre are nearing their expiry dates, and the centre is lacking funds to pay staff salaries and other expenses such as water and electricity, the minister told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

According to Dr. Mamser, a group of economists and physicians have established a charitable organisation, entitled Al Shifaa Amal Society, designed to direct the centre.

The Ministry of Social Development has officially designated the society's 80-member founding assembly and 15-member board of trustees as a charitable society that the group might assume ownership of the centre, he explained.

Al Amal Cancer Centre cannot simply be run by a charitable society as such a task requires specialised technical skills as well as procedural and administrative work, Dr. Mamser maintained.

He suggested that a national non-profit organisation be created precisely for such a task, and that the government enact special legislation for the organisational sphere of the centre, whose annual operational costs are currently estimated at JD 10 million.

Al Amal Cancer Centre is presently run by a task force, headed by General Union of Volunteer Societies (GUVS) President Dr. Abdullah Khatib.

Dr. Khatib previously estimated that 3,000 to 4,000 cancer patients are diagnosed annually in Jordan.

Al Amal Cancer Centre's 120 bed in-patient facility is equipped for highly advanced therapies such as bone marrow transplants and adult and paediatric chemotherapy.

The centre includes outpatient clinics, radio-diagnostic, radio-therapy and nuclear medicine departments.

Doctors and nurses working therein have acquired specialised training in the United States.

If no patients are referred by public and private health organisations to Al Amal Cancer Centre, the facility could be transformed into a general hospital, as its present task force is unable to raise funds to cover the centre's operational costs, Dr. Mamser admonished.

Police arrest six women on theft allegations

By Rana Hesseini
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Police Monday announced the arrest of six women on allegations of swindling individuals in Zarqa, an official source said.

The official source stated that the women, whom he declined to identify, were also running several brothels in Zarqa.

He said that several individuals complained to police that these women would lure them to houses, then steal valuable belongings.

"Based on this information, police put

several suspected women under surveillance, and apprehended them in a brothel which belonged to one of the women in Zarqa," the source said.

He said that all six women were transferred to the Zarqa criminal prosecutor for further investigation.

Also in Zarqa, police confirmed that they apprehended a 20-year old man who, Monday morning, struck and killed a woman on the Zarqa highway.

Layla Abdul Ruhman, 49, was struck by a vehicle while crossing a highway and instantly killed, a police official said.

He told the Jordan Times Monday that

the suspect, Amjad Mohammad, was apprehended shortly following the accident.

"Mr. Mohammad called us from his mobile phone to inform us that he had hit the woman and he turned himself in," the police official said.

In Mudaba, a 25-year-old Egyptian national drowned in a water reservoir at a farm in the Zeytouneh area, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports.

The victim, Malek Thaber Mahmoud, accidentally fell in the reservoir and drowned, the reports said.

U.S. congressional delegation arrives in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A U.S. congressional delegation, headed by Representative Benjamin A. Gilman, arrived in Amman yesterday on a two-day visit to Jordan as a part of a regional tour, according to a U.S. embassy statement Monday.

Mr. Gilman is chairman of the House (of Representatives) International Relations Committee and member of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the statement said.

During his visit, Mr. Gilman and his delegation are scheduled to meet with senior Jordanian government officials.

Mr. Gilman's accompanying delegation includes Gary Aekerman, member

of the House International Relations Committee; Eliot Engel, member of the House Committee on Commerce; Alcee L. Hastings, member of the House International Relations Committee; and the Committee on Science; and Em Facsimilaga, member of the House International Relations Committee and the Committee on Resources.

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UNDP grants \$200,900 for environmental projects

By Ghaila Ahul
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Monday awarded approximately \$200,900 to five non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to implement different projects designed to support local communities in tackling a range of environmental issues.

The award comes under the Small Grant Programme, which advocates a grassroots and innovative approach in protecting the ecosystem, and is financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), according to a UNDP statement.

"We are proud to see the five organisations working very closely with ordinary Jordanians... there are projects for men, women and young people who are all [ensuring the] preservation of natural resources," said UNDP Resident Representative Jorgen Lissner.

As part of the Small Grants Programme's efforts to encourage the participation of women in preserving the environment, the Cooperative Rural Women's Society in Deir Alla was named as one of the recipients.

The society's project will teach low-income women farmers to reduce the use of toxic chemicals and avoid land degradation, through integrated pest management techniques, the statement said.

The project, which is also supported by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), will be used as a model for farmers in other parts of the country, it added.

"Women tend to be more involved and concerned with the environment as they are responsible for some of the daily activities which either harm or strengthen it," according to Mr. Lissner.

The Jordanian Forum for Environment and Population Culture is one of the beneficiaries which will use the award to increase awareness of environmental conservation and eco-tourism by organising summer camps, school visits and youth workshops in Madaba.

Another recipient is the Friends of Environment (FOE) which group will use the grant to implement a national environmental awareness campaign in schools and establish a network for dialogue between students through the Internet, according to the statement.

"It is clear that the high degree of environmental awareness in many countries is found among young children, therefore one of the projects is intended to create environmental awareness programmes for schoolchildren," Mr. Lissner affirmed.

The Intermediate Technology Work Group for the Wadi Faynan Project will use the GEF grant to promote eco-tourism by improving the infrastructure of a campsite in Wadi Faynan, an archaeological environmental area south of the Dead Sea, the statement said.

It added that the project will employ environmentally friendly technology such as the use of solar power for energy generation.

The Jordanian Society for Desertification Control and Reforestation is another beneficiary which is planning to transform 150 dunums of barren land northeast of Amman into a national park.

According to the statement, the trees planted in this park will help protect biodiversity, soil structure and have positive impact on the climatological status of the desert and semi-arid regions in Jordan.

Since the GEF was launched in the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, it has allocated \$500,000 to 12 different Jordanian NGOs, Mr. Lissner affirmed.

He added that this grant money "is the second tranche [awarded to Jordanian NGOs]. Women and youth are very important groups for this programme, and we feel that this programme has a future in Jordan and we are working hard to get the third tranche."

The GEF Small Grants Programme, managed by UNDP in various countries, gives priority to initiatives which address critical environmental threats in areas of climate change, biodiversity, desertification, land degradation and international waters, the statement said.

Ministry awards JD 500,000 contract for preparation of water network designs

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation Monday awarded the Jordanian Sigma Consultancy Firm and the German Lahmir Firm a JD 500,000 contract to prepare final designs and tender documents for the construction of water networks in Amman's 13 water distribution districts.

The agreement stipulates that the two consultancy firms submit the required documents within eight months, thereby facilitating the tender's announcement and subsequent commencement of actual labour.

The project is based on a \$1.5 million study, prepared by German experts and financed by the German government, which was submitted last June to Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin.

The minister has stated that rehabilitation of water networks is of great priority as not all pumped water is actually delivered, due to leaky pipes.

He also affirmed that the ministry will replace water networks throughout the Kingdom at the estimated cost of JD 200 million.

According to Dr. Haddadin, Water Authority Secretary General Munther Khleifat signed the contract as did representatives of the two consultancy firms.

According to the minister, the project will cover Qweismeh, Abu Alanda, Dabouk, Khilda, Shafa Badran, Um Al Shujairat and Abu Nuseir in Amman's suburbs, as well as Jabal Amman, Jabal Weibdeh, Jabal Hussein and Jabal Nuzha in the capital.

The project is financed



Water Authority Secretary General Munther Khleifat and representatives of the Jordanian Sigma Consultancy Firm and the German Lahmir Firm sign water network contract (Petra photo)

through a loan from the European Investment Bank, he affirmed.

Also Monday, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) signed a contract with the National Electric Power Company (JEPCO) to construct a

42-kilometre cable to supply electricity to areas on the Dead Sea's eastern coast at the proposed cost of JD 8.5 million.

JVA Secretary General Duraid Mahasneh and JEPCO Director General Mohammad Said Arafeh signed the contract.

measure up to two by six metres.

Natural dyes are sometimes used. Wall hangings have also been woven to order for a United Nations agency in Austria, and during last year's visit of the Bahraini-British Friendship Society.

Bahraini weavers visit Jordan to compare styles, tradition of the craft

MANAMA (J.T.) — Five Bahraini women are to leave next Sunday for an eight-day trip to Jordan in order to compare wool-weaving projects in the Hashemite Kingdom with similar work in Bahrain.

The women will be afforded the opportunity to visit various areas in Jordan where weavings are accomplished.

Although wool weaving is a relatively new handicraft on the island, undertaken by two dozen women in Diraz, a long tradition exists among bedouin tribes in Jordan and others in the society to weave in the country's traditional red and green colours.

However, over the years, Jordanian women have been increasingly exploring modern designs and new avenues for their handiwork.

The five Bahraini women weavers, accompanied by a Craft Centre staff member, will be able to observe wool weaving first-hand, as practised in Jordan, compare new styles and discuss common dilemmas related thereto.

This month's trip came subsequent to a "Made in Bahrain" exhibition in Amman, two months ago.

The visit comes under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

During the exhibition, Director of Bahrain's Craft Centre Aisha Mattar, discussed the value of joining Bahraini weavers with their counterparts in Jordan.

"Weaving isn't actually a traditional craft in Bahrain, as customarily lamb's wool was merely burned after slaughter," Ms. Mattar explained.

Two dozen women in Diraz, in western Bahrain, form part of a wool-weaving group under the supervision of the Craft Centre.

Begun as an experiment six years ago with 16 young women, the project now boasts its own workshop in Diraz.

Variations in Bahraini sheep colours provide 18 identifiable natural hues, which are then spun and woven by the Diraz women to produce products boasting varying shades.

These products range from cushions, yarn and tapestries to rugs which can

measure up to two by six metres.

Natural dyes are sometimes used. Wall hangings have also been woven to order for a United Nations agency in Austria, and during last year's visit of the Bahraini-British Friendship Society.

The income generated from this project is paid to the workers, to ensure a set standard of quality for their products, and a small percentage is allocated to cover the upkeep of the weaving workshop.

The products are then supplied for sale to the Craft Centre, which is entirely managed by Bahraini women and located in Bahrain's first technical school, built more than sixty years ago.

Sample pieces are selected to be put on display in the gallery, an attractive showroom, to demonstrate the Craft Centre's full range of handiwork — from palm paper, Arabic calligraphy and stained glass to gypsum, pottery, wood and iron products.

Ms. Mattar estimates that 600 to 800 wool products are produced annually, with "a good year" providing up to a thousand articles.

Though some Bahrainis appreciate the wool products, most articles are bought by visitors to the island.

"Some days, wool sales are slow, particularly during the summer, but, suddenly, we might sell BD 1,000 worth of wool crafts in one day," Ms. Mattar explained. "Tastes definitely differ."

"Customers who truly appreciate handmade wares will snap them up as [the rugs are] considered unique and definitely not a machine-made product," she added.

Earlier this decade, the former Ministry of Development and Industry was looking for projects to provide young Bahraini women with income and encourage confidence and self-respect for their abilities.

The wool-weaving project was one of a dozen handicrafts that evolved from their research.

"In the past, all societies placed importance on working with their hands to fulfil [communal] needs,"

Ms. Mattar stated. "With the changes brought about by industrialisation, the significance of manual crafts was devalued, to the extent that [engagement in such] wasn't considered respectable."

"With the discovery of oil and the rush towards modernisation, Bahrain hasn't been spared from marginalising its village craft industries," she asserted.

"But an important part of our work is to help change these attitudes and perceptions among the villagers and the society in general, place greater value on handicrafts, upgrade standards, in the eyes of the artisans and the potential market, and open new avenues for Bahraini crafts."

Ms. Mattar expressed her wish that Bahrain be recognised, both regionally and internationally, for certain crafts.

"If you look at handicrafts from other regions of the world, the expert eye can detect its origins," she stated. "So it should be with Bahraini products, [they must retain] a distinctiveness to their style."

When a reporter argued for adhering to certain traditional designs, Ms. Mattar responded that one "cannot [forever] depend on rigidly maintaining forms and styles used for generations."

"Our artisans must modernise and find a contemporary expression for their craft to both maintain that which is classic yet enter onto [unexplored] horizons in its design," she asserted.

Encounters in Jordan will help educate the weaving group, through meetings with their peers and the maintenance of high standards.

Some young women who have completed their secondary education have not been involved in any kind of project since their graduation. Therefore, a project such as wool weaving is directed towards a renewed learning.

"We've noticed that women are much harder workers than men in handicrafts," Ms. Mattar attested. "They have more of a commitment to the work they're doing."

When societal or familial pressures force some women to abandon their



Example of a traditional Jordanian woven rug (file photo)

handiwork, jobs are usually relinquished with a great deal of reluctance, she said.

"They don't say they're quitting," Ms. Mattar stated. "They say they're taking a break, as they really wish to return once they've sorted out their domestic problems."

Apart from wool weaving, the Gallery will exhibit embroidery for one week, beginning Oct. 22.

Embroidery is one of Bahrain's most revered crafts and, in the past, traditional apparel was comprised exclusively of such.

The October show will also exhibit other kinds of needlework from the hands of 11 women from Muharraq.

Two supervisors will attend a seminar in Jordan in November on small project management, in a study supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Craft Centre personnel participating in this seminar currently head paper and embroidery workshops.

Also in November, an exhibit of stained-glass wares will be displayed for a week in the Gallery.

This article was reprinted from the Bahrain Tribune, Monday, August 18.

WHAT'S GOING ON

CONCERT

* Musical performance by the Rozana band at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILM

* "Sharpe's Battle" at the British Council, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

FUHEIS EIGHTH FESTIVAL

* Concert by Nour Mhanna at the main theatre at 9:00 p.m.

* Poetry recital by Josephi Harb, Maymoudh Udwan, Habib Zeyoudi, and Jirees Samawi at the Church museum square at 6:30 p.m.

* Exhibitions on Jerusalem, tourism, environment, agriculture, handicrafts as well as slides on Jordan's tourist sites at the festival premises.

EXHIBITIONS

* "Islamic Bookbinding Exhibition" at the British Council, Jabal Amman, until Aug. 31.

Bosnian Serb president vows to seek early election

BANJA LUKA (R) — Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic vowed Monday to press for early parliamentary elections in October despite an adverse court ruling last week.

She also pledged to carry on fighting against what she called hardliners' "terror" in Serb-controlled areas.

"We will continue on the road towards early parliamentary elections scheduled for October 12 regardless of the Constitutional Court decision," she told reporters at a news conference in the northern Bosnian town of Banja Luka.

The Bosnian Serb Constitutional Court ruled Friday against Ms. Plavsic's decision to disband parliament and call early elections as unconstitutional. The court had come under pressure from government nationalist hardliners loyal to Ms. Plavsic's predecessor, indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic.

"I say they (the court rulings) are not binding for me and I will continue to struggle for the establishment of the rule of law," Ms. Plavsic said.

The court decision was also condemned by Western

powers especially after reports that severe pressure was brought to bear on the judges, one of whom was badly beaten.

"Challenges are so great and they inspire me to continue to fight with even more strength against the largest and worst evil, against terror which prevents people from saying what they think," Ms. Plavsic said.

"They want to make (Bosnian Serb) Republika Srpska a state ruled by an oligarchy. This type of 'democracy' is known only in totalitarian regimes such as Communism and Fascism," she said, referring to Mr. Karadzic's loyalists.

Her comments seemed bound to ratchet up tensions in the Bosnian Serb republic. Feelings were already running high after her police took over a police station at the weekend, prompting NATO to intervene and prevent a possible clash between rival forces.

British soldiers in Spartan armoured vehicles and two platoons of Royal Military Police stood guard outside a police station early Monday morning after it was seized by special police units loyal

to Ms. Plavsic.

About 50 special policemen entered the building before dawn Sunday because they said hardliners opposed to Ms. Plavsic were using it to tap the president's telephones and faxes.

Hardline nationalists later asked for permission to send in their own special police to counter the action. The NATO-led peace Stabilisation Force (SFOR) denied the request.

SFOR then ordered the British troops in to defuse tensions and international police monitors launched an investigation into the electronic surveillance charges. SFOR spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Wright said that Ms. Plavsic's police eventually agreed to withdraw from the building under the protection of British troops.

Col. Wright said all Ms. Plavsic's special police left the building overnight under British escort without incident. He said it went "absolutely smoothly."

SFOR said the action by Ms. Plavsic's forces violated new guidelines for special police handed down by NATO this month.

The police action reflect-

ed mounting tensions in Bosnia's Serb territory where Plavsic supporters are waging a battle for power against Karadzic's loyalists.

Western officials say Ms. Plavsic has been aware for some time that her office was under surveillance from her rivals. Her police conducted a sudden search of the main hotel in Banja Luka last month looking for bugging devices.

Denying prior knowledge of the Sunday action by the police loyal to her, Ms. Plavsic said she had numerous written documents and tapes to prove the surveillance. Documents were distributed to reporters and tapes were shown at Monday's news conference.

Western governments have thrown their weight behind Ms. Plavsic because they say she has shown willingness to abide by the country's peace agreement.

In addition to Ms. Plavsic, state security allegedly tapped the phones of Constitutional Court judges Rajko Kuzmanovic and Jovo Rosic, the judge who was beaten, and several hundred other prominent citizens of Banja Luka.

Bosnian Croat war crimes suspect is reportedly held in Zagreb

ZAGREB (R) — Croatia is holding a Bosnian Croat indicted for war crimes and may hand him over to the international tribunal in The Hague, a judge at the Zagreb county court told Reuters Monday.

"I know that one (Bosnian Croat) is here but I cannot give you the name or anything else," the judge said.

He said there were still legal proceedings to go through before the man could be transferred to the Hague.

A human rights monitor said at the weekend that Croatia was holding at least one of the six men who have

been indicted in the Hague for war crimes committed in 1993 in the village of Ahmici in central Bosnia.

But the most wanted of the suspects, Dario Kordic, who was a high-ranking politician in Croat-controlled Bosnia, was not among them, the monitor said.

The Hague indictment against Kordic and five others describes attacks on hundreds of Bosnian Muslim houses in villages in the Lasva valley area of central Bosnia.

The United Nations in Zagreb said they had not been informed that an indicted suspect was cur-

rently in custody.

Speculation is mounting throughout the former Yugoslavia that indicted suspects may be forced to surrender to the Hague or may choose to hand themselves over as international pressure intensifies to get the parties to comply with peace agreements.

Foreign Minister Mate Granic told his German counterpart Klaus Kinkel in Frankfurt Saturday that the so-called "Vitez Group" of seven indicted Bosnian Croats were ready to give themselves up to the tribunal if they were assured of a quick trial.

Mexico shocked by wave of killings

MEXICO CITY (R) — The murder of the brother of the nation's finance minister has again shocked crime-weary Mexicans, many of whom suspect the killing late Saturday was more than a simple robbery attempt.

Alejandro Ortiz Martinez, brother of Mexico's Finance Minister Guillermo Ortiz, died after being shot as he stepped out of his late model Mercedes Benz in the posh Lomas De Chapultepec neighbourhood of Mexico City.

Police immediately said the crime was a robbery attempt, but some observers said it looked more like a straight-out murder, with the gunmen fleeing without stealing the car.

The 55-year-old bank official, who had a doctorate in economics from the University of Georgetown, died almost immediately afterwards in a military hospital.

At a news conference Sunday, a director general of the Attorney-General's Office, Jorge Pena Sandoval, said the victim was killed by two gunmen as a third person waited in a getaway car.

"The Attorney-General's Office ... considers that the motive for the murder of Alejandro Ortiz Martinez was robbery with violence," Pena Sandoval said, adding that the fact the gunmen left without stealing anything was explainable by the fact they had just killed someone.

The killing was the latest in a bloody week in the chaotic capital.

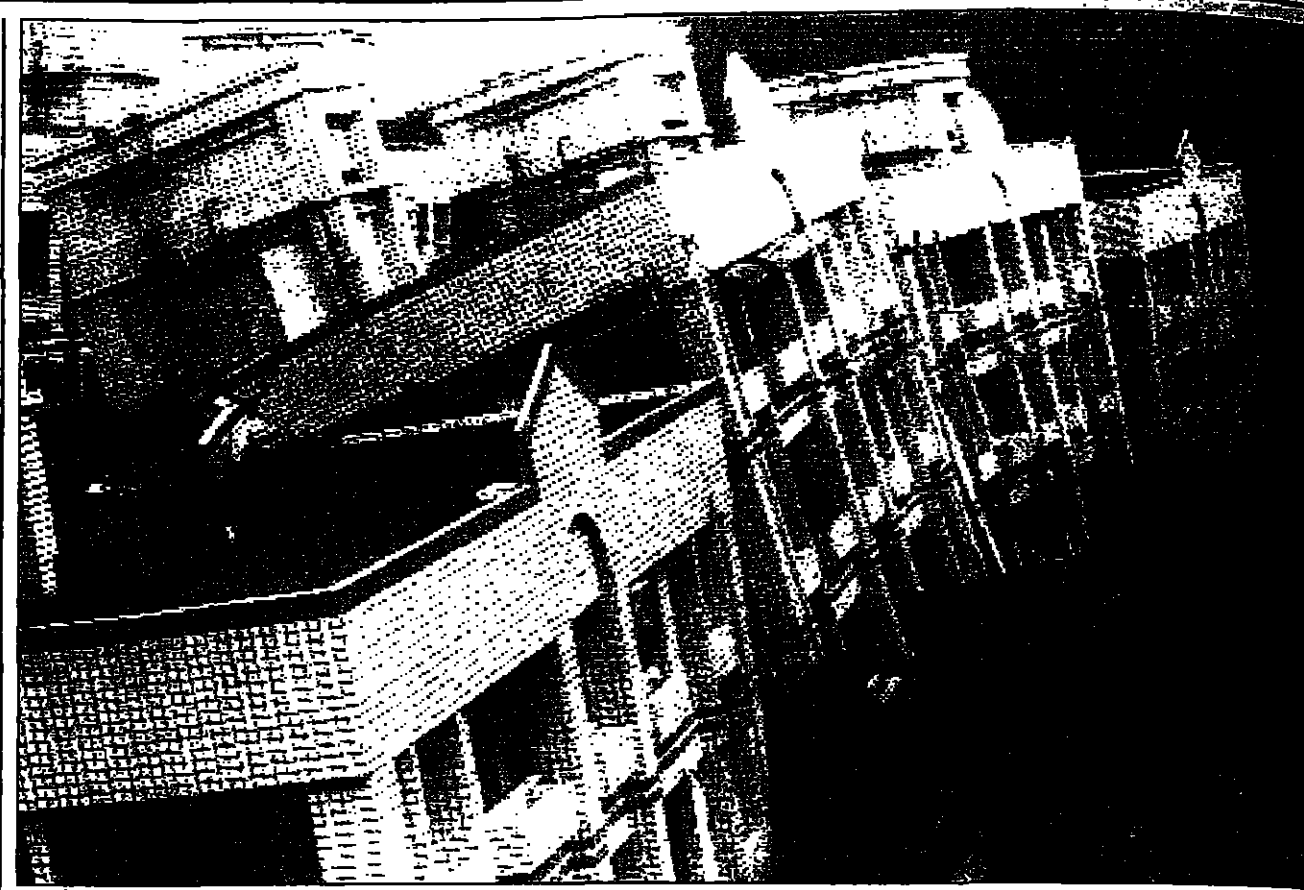
Three youths were gunned down in a car late in the week in what appeared to be a revenge killing.

On Saturday, a government budget director, Jorge Banuelos Ortiz, 51, was clubbed to death and stuffed into the trunk of his own car.

While armed robberies are a daily occurrence in the chaotic capital of Mexico, residents almost always suspect the worst.

"In Mexico we have these kinds of things. Maybe it (the killing of Ortiz Martinez) was a revenge killing," speculated one Mexico City taxi driver.

"Was it a murder? A robbery attempt? A kidnapping attempt? What were the motives of this condemnable incident," wrote columnist F. Bartolome in the Reforma newspaper Sunday.



Buildings in a mountainous area in eastern Taipei are on the verge of collapse after strong winds and torrential rain brought by typhoon Winnie triggered landslides Monday. Winnie, the first typhoon to hit the island this year, caused serious damage in north and northeastern Taiwan (Reuters photo)

5 dead as typhoon lashes Taiwan, heads for Shanghai

TAIPEI (AFP) — Rescue workers dug through mud and rubble in northern Taiwan Monday when Typhoon Winnie lashed the island, killing at least five and injuring more than 20, before sweeping towards the southern Chinese city of Shanghai.

Weathermen said the alert would not be lifted before midnight when the typhoon was due to make landfall on the southern Chinese coast, after battering the southern Japanese island of Okinawa Sunday.

Shanghai's municipal government held an emergency meeting to discuss how to deal with a looming Typhoon, expected to be the strongest to hit the region in 90 years, news reports in the city said.

The typhoon was due to make landfall at eastern Zhejiang province, south of Shanghai, later Monday, the Wenhui Bao daily said.

Television reported police here saying that rescuers dug through tonnes of mud and rubble as the typhoon brought landslides and chaos to the island. The death toll was expected to increase, police said.

One woman was killed

and 17 injured when four buildings were seriously tilted by a landslide in Hsichih, Taipei county.

Police said it was still not clear how many people had been trapped but more than 100 families had been evacuated to safety.

Access to the remote community was made even more difficult by the problem of getting transport out on the roads in the heavy rains and winds, police said.

In the Taipei suburb of Tienmu, a family of seven were buried alive early Monday when their home collapsed on them. Two were pulled out of the mud and rocks, but the fate of the other five was unknown.

"I heard a big bang, and then I found I was in the mud," Lee Chih-Chien told the Taiwan Television Enterprise. But her sister Lee Chih-Chiu died as she was being rushed to a nearby hospital for emergency treatment.

Rescue workers battled desperately to free the other five members of the family still buried in the rubble.

Dozens of fire fighters and troops were mobilised to dig them out, but because the site is on a hillside, bul-

dows could not be used and the rescue work was progressing slowly.

In Neihu, 10 kilometres outside central Taipei, rescuers saved three people trapped in a basement by rising floodwaters. One died before being admitted to hospital.

Residents were caught unprepared as the floodwaters rose to two metres. "This area has never been flooded before," an unnamed resident told a local television.

In eastern Hsin county, a man drowned in a river after he went fishing despite weather warnings, and another man fell to his death from a building.

The storm forced the closure of the stock market, banks and schools, and all domestic flights were cancelled. Few shops and businesses opened in the northern part of the island.

Power outages affected at least 68,000 households, and the state-run Taiwan Power Co., the sole power supplier on the island, had sent technicians to repair the damaged lines.

In the northern port of Keelung, 17 fishing and leisure boats sank as high-

tides whipping up waves three stories high battered the coast.

By mid-morning Monday the storm was 310 kilometres northeast of Taipei and moving west-northwest at a speed of 19 kilometres per hour.

The southern Chinese coastal city of Shanghai with its population of 14 million people was battering down preparing to take the brunt.

"The Typhoon is the strongest to hit Shanghai in 90 years," said an official at the Shanghai Flood and Disaster Control Headquarters, who identified himself only as Hu.

"In the past, we had casualties but since we have improved preventive measures, the only losses we suffer now are economic," he said.

Meanwhile, air services in other southern Japanese islands remained paralysed Monday after the storm, officials said.

In Okinawa, three children were killed in a fire from a candle that they were using when the lights went out caused by the typhoon. At least four people were injured in Okinawa prefecture.

Sinn Fein on course to enter talks as IRA ceasefire holds

LONDON (AFP) — In the run-up to round-table talks on the future of Northern Ireland in September, the omens are good that the ceasefire declared a month ago by the Irish Republican Army will hold.

Northern Ireland's moderate Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) Sunday announced it would hold talks with the head of the Irish Catholic Church, Archbishop Sean Brady, within three weeks.

Face-to-face talks between UUP leader David Trimble and Bishop Brady at his official residence in Armagh would constitute an absolute first, as well as an additional bridge between the two communities.

Over the past months, there have been several firsts of this kind, highly significant for the troubled province.

They include last Tuesday's live television debate between UUP leader, Ken Maginnis, and Martin McGuinness, chief negotiator of Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing.

Admittedly, the historic head-to-head encounter demonstrated the gulf between the two camps, but speakers remained civil towards each

other, lending weight to the idea of a normalisation of political relationships in northern Ireland.

On the ground, the decrease in military tension, already registered during the 1994-96 ceasefire, is again palpable, and this time has taken hold more quickly. Police and army patrols have been scaled down, road blocks lifted and soldiers have swapped their helmets for berets.

But the most significant difference with the previous cessation is the total absence of IRA activity, which is unprecedented in the history of the organisation's 28-year-old campaign of violence for a united Ireland.

No surveillance operations, no training and almost no punishment shootings have been reported.

The Republicans' restraint is all the more remarkable in that, according to nationalist sources, the IRA's hard core was more reluctant to call a second ceasefire in the light of the failure of the first one.

"So far, so good," Northern Ireland Minister of State Paul Murphy commented, suggesting that, providing the situation remains calm, the ceasefire

will be declared genuine and Sinn Fein will for the first time gain admission to the talks when they begin on Sept. 15.

However, the UUP has not yet confirmed whether it will join the negotiations because it is dissatisfied with Anglo-Irish guarantees over IRA disarmament.

The party, taken by surprise by the IRA ceasefire which took effect on July 20, said it is currently sounding out opinion.

A significant number of the moderate Unionist supporters, notably among economic circles and religious leaders, are believed to support talks, and commentators consider it increasingly unlikely that the UUP will boycott talks and incur the blame for blocking the peace process.

To extend the period of testing the IRA's good faith, the party could opt for conditional participation or indirect talks.

The question remains of whether all these favourable signs will enable a political compromise to be clinched between now and May 1998, the deadline fixed by London.

10 Muslim rebels killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR (AFP) — At least 10 Muslim separatist rebels were killed in a series of clashes in the disputed Indian frontier state of Kashmir, police claimed Monday.

They said six militants, including three foreign nationals, died while trying to infiltrate Indian-administered Kashmir from Pakistan in the northern district of Kupwara, some 100 kilometres north of here.

The sovereignty of Kashmir is disputed by India and Pakistan. Indian Kashmir makes up two-thirds of the territory, while Pakistan administers the remainder.

A Muslim insurgency in Indian-administered Kashmir has claimed more than 20,000 lives since 1989. New Delhi accuses

Islamabad of covertly backing the rebellion.

"A group of militants were trying to infiltrate into India under cover of darkness last night, which led to the encounter. The others managed to escape," a police official said.

He said police had recovered missile launchers, assault rifles and grenades from the dead militants.

In another shoot-out late Sunday in the town of Safapora, some 55 kilometres north of Srinagar, two alleged foreign mercenaries were shot dead during a raid on their hide-out. The confrontation lasted six hours.

One year on, Belgium mourns paedophile victims

BRUSSELS (R) — Several hundred mourners and activists marched to a small Belgian village Sunday to mark the discovery there a year ago of the bodies of two young girls murdered in a paedophile affair that traumatised the nation.

The bodies of Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo, both aged eight, were dug up a year ago today at a property owned by convicted child rapist Marc Dutroux in the southern Belgian village of Sars-La-Buissiere.

Dutroux had earlier been arrested and charged with abducting two other young girls, who were later rescued by police from a makeshift dungeon in one of Dutroux's houses and found to have been sexually abused.

He then led police to the bodies of Julie and Melissa who had starved to death nine months after being snatched from near their homes in eastern Belgium.

Dutroux later told police where to find the buried bodies of Ane Marchal and

Eefje Lambrechts, two teenagers who had disappeared a year earlier.

Held in an isolation cell in the southern city of Arlon, Dutroux is expected to stand trial late next year.

The march, which set out from nearby Lobbes, was allowed into Sars-La-Buissiere after local authorities had initially asked that access to the village be left free for those attending a Sunday morning remembrance mass in the local church.

Many of the around 400 marchers wore white clothing to symbolise purity and claimed to be demonstrating not just for Julie and Melissa but for all abused children.

Earlier, some 250 people, including the dead girls' mothers, heard a moving musical tribute to the girls during a solemn service. Large pictures of the two girls adorned the church.

Those arriving for the mass said they came to pay tribute to the girls' families and to pray that the deaths would prompt change in a

system that many see as corrupt.

"I'm here to pay homage, simple," said one woman.

"I'm here to remember, to pray and to offer sympathy to the (girls') parents. It's a very emotional day," said another.

Gaston Schoonbroodt, a priest and friend of the Russo family, told Belgian television that the service was aimed at supporting the families and the village's inhabitants who are wracked by feelings of shame and guilt.

"But it's also to underline the message that this must never be allowed to happen again," Mr. Schoonbroodt said.

"There is real despair. If we are the living, the survivors, they (Julie and Melissa) are the super-living. It sounds odd, but it's the simplest way I can put it."

In a nationwide expression of remembrance and grief, a stream of ordinary citizens, many weeping, all still bewildered by last year's grisly events, laid flo-

ral tributes at the girls' graves and outside the houses where they lived.

The discoveries of the dead children's bodies rocked Belgium to the core and prompted widespread accusations that Dutroux and his accomplices had official protection.

At the time of the killings, Dutroux was on parole from a 13-year sentence for multiple child rape.

Last October over 250,000 staged a "white march" through Brussels in support of the victims and their families and to vent their disgust at a judicial system seen as deeply corrupt.

An all-party parliamentary committee investigating cover-up theories is due to report next month. A preliminary report in April revealed a trail of bungling, unprofessional behaviour and missed chances that ordinary Belgians found hard to believe.

Julie's father Jean-Denis Lejeune said last week that little had changed and the two girls had died for nothing.

Rebels abduct 12 town councillors in Colombia

BOGOTA (R) — Leftist rebels kidnapped at least 12 town councillors in two communities in northern Colombia as part of their campaign to sabotage local elections in October, authorities said Sunday.

In Simiti, in the northern province of Bolivar, the entire town council — nine officials, including the town treasurer — was seized on the way to a meeting Saturday, police sources said. The seizure was carried out on the orders of one of the guerrilla armies that operate in the area, the sources said.

And in San Pablo, also in Bolivar, three councillors were kidnapped in similar circumstances. Provincial

Governor Miguel Navas blamed both abductions on the Cuban-inspired, National Liberation Army (ELN). Colombia's second-largest guerrilla force, set up by radical Roman Catholic priests in 1966.

"We were not able to get official confirmation of these incidents until Sunday morning," Mr. Navas told reporters. "Nine council members were taken from Simiti and at least three more from San Pablo."

An NTC Television news programme showed the ELN's trademark black-and-red flag flying over some villages in Simiti, a town of about 8,000 inhabitants. Simiti has had no police pre-

sence since about 100 rebels overran the town on June 30, destroying the barracks and killing three policemen.

No demands have yet been made for concessions that would gain the officials' release, the spokesman said.

Earlier this month, the ELN kidnapped five mayors in the southern province of Narino and killed a senator in the northeastern province of Norte De Santander.

The larger rebel army of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), meanwhile, has forced candidates for the Oct. 26 mayoral elections to withdraw in some towns in southern and eastern Colombia.

Both guerrilla groups and right-wing paramilitary forces have pledged to disrupt the elections, in which provincial governors will also be elected, and have threatened to kill any candidates of opposing political views who dare to campaign in their zones of influence.

Gilberto Toro, head of the Colombian Association of Municipalities, said the rising violence meant it would be impossible to guarantee free and fair elections.

"From these actions, it is clear the paramilitaries and the guerrillas have control of large parts of the country. There are not sufficient guarantees for the October elections," he said.



Truck carrying armed soldiers of O'Smach Movement in Cambodia's royalist forces

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A pickup truck carrying armed Khmer Rouge fighters heads for the frontline past the northwestern Cambodian border town of O Smach Monday. Khmer Rouge guerrillas from their stronghold in Anlong Veng, who came to help Cambodia's royalist forces to defend this border town, have claimed success in pushing back and halting the advancing of troops of strongman Hun Sen (Reuters photo)

Yeltsin promises new accord on Chechnya's political status

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin called for a new treaty on Chechnya's political status after talks Monday at the Kremlin with the breakaway republic's President Aslan Maskhadov.

Russia and the north Caucasus Republic, which fought a bitter 21-month war that ended last August, must "think about future steps towards the freedom of the Chechen Republic — independence or something else, whatever to call it," Mr. Yeltsin said.

"We do not need to get stuck on this. We need to create a joint group to sit down and prepare this document, this accord together," Mr. Yeltsin said in comments broadcast on NTV television.

Mr. Yeltsin's offer fell short of Mr. Maskhadov's goal of winning immediate recognition of his republic's declaration of independence.

Despite the ferocious resistance which forced the withdrawal of Russian troops last year, Moscow still insists it has sovereignty over Chechnya and that it can allow it nothing more than autonomy.

In a conciliatory tone, Mr. Maskhadov said that Russia and Chechnya had to work together in political, economic and defence fields because "our strategic interests coincide," Interfax reported.

Before leaving the Chechen capital Grozny, Mr. Maskhadov said that he

intended to negotiate "on an equal footing" and that he would seek independence for the breakaway republic.

"I am not going to Moscow with the intention of begging, but to suggest putting our relations on a civilised level and to demand what Russia owes Chechnya after leaving it in ruins," he told Interfax.

In particular, he said, he wanted "a full inter-state agreement foreshadowing mutual recognition, the opening of embassies and non-interference in each other's affairs."

During preparatory talks Sunday with Chechen First Deputy Premier Movladi Udogov, Security Council Secretary Ivan Rybkin, the top Russian negotiator for Chechnya, said that it was too early to decide the status question.

The 1-1/2-hour face-to-face talks between Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Maskhadov were the first between the two leaders in three months.

They also covered a dispute over Russian aid to the ruined republic of about one million people.

Mr. Yeltsin acknowledged that Chechnya was not getting all the money it had been allotted.

"Eight hundred billion rubles have been sent to Chechnya, but only 120 billion rubles has appeared in the Chechen national bank," Mr. Yeltsin was quoted as saying by Interfax.

"This money, damn it, is leaking somewhere," he said.

Before the talks, Mr. Maskhadov said: "All the money that has reached Chechnya so far this year adds up to less than Russia spent on a single day of war."

Chechnya declared unilateral independence in 1991 and three years later the Russian armed forces began a large-scale offensive to regain control, but ran into fierce guerrilla resistance, and were defeated in Grozny last August.

Tens of thousands of people were killed.

Under an August 1996 peace accord, both sides agreed to freeze a decision on Chechnya's political status for five years, but Chechens consider the republic as an independent state.

The meeting between Mr. Maskhadov and Mr. Yeltsin — their second since the end of the war — came a day after two of the five Russian journalists being held hostage in Chechnya were freed.

The two journalists from the VID television production company returned safely to Moscow Sunday.

However, three NTV television journalists and two British aid workers remain missing in Chechnya, along with several other aid workers who have been kidnapped in neighbouring Russian regions.

Chechnya has high strategic importance because a pipeline running from the boom Caspian Sea oil fields runs through the republic on its way to the Russian Black Sea port of Novorossiysk.

S. Korean defector may have spied for North — report

SEOUL (R) — A South Korean religious leader who defected to Communist North Korea last week might have been a spy while serving on a presidential advisory group, Seoul newspapers said Monday.

South Korea's intelligence agency and police investigating the defection of Oh Ik-Jae declined to comment on the newspaper reports.

Mr. Oh, 68, who turned up in Pyongyang Friday, served on the Advisory Council on Democratic and Peaceful Unification, a presidential advisory body in South Korea. An official at the advisory body said Mr. Oh's term as adviser ended in June.

Mr. Oh was also a founding member of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics.

A senior police official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters he suspected Mr. Oh had maintained contacts with North Korean officials since 1993 when he met Pyongyang representatives of a religious group, Chondokyo, in Beijing.

Mr. Oh, who headed 130-year-old Chondokyo in the South until 1995, arrived in Pyongyang Friday by train for "permanent residence," according to Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency's (KCNA).

"The authorities suspect Mr. Oh worked as a North Korean spy in the South for some time," said the influential Chosun Ilbo daily, which has had numerous scoops on North Korea-related issues in recent months.

Chosun Ilbo quoted an unidentified ruling camp official as saying that Mr. Oh appeared to have "left for America in March to escape the government's dragnet which was tightening towards him."

South Korea's state television broadcast North Korean TV footage showing Mr. Oh stepping out of a train at Pyongyang Railway Station.

In an arrival statement, he hailed North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il as a hero and slammed the South Korean government for pursuing policies hampering the reunification of the Korean Peninsula divided at the end of World War II.

The police official said the North might also be using Oh in its propaganda to make up for the defection to the South earlier this year of Hwang Jung-Yop, the highest-ranking Pyongyang official ever to flee his homeland.

Mr. Hwang, a top ideologue who arrived in Seoul in April via China and the Philippines, has said there are North Korean moles among high ranking Seoul officials.

Hun Sen's troops renew assault on Cambodian royalist forces

O SMACH (AFP) — Forces loyal to Cambodian strongman Hun Sen renewed their assault Monday on the country's last bastion of royalist resistance.

Villagers in O Smach stopped to watch as the first cloud-bursts from incoming artillery rounds rose from a ridge four kilometres away after a lull in the fighting since Sunday.

Many of the more than 20,000 civilians in the village, whose population has been swelled by advance of Hun Sen's troops, began streaming towards a border checkpoint manned by Thai soldiers as automatic weapons fire and mortar rounds pounded the area.

Cambodians had not been allowed to enter Thailand as of 4:00 p.m., when reporters were ordered back to the Thai town of Chong Chom across the border. Thai officials have said unarmed Cambodians will be allowed across the border if their lives are threatened.

Troops loyal to Second Prime Minister Hun Sen were trying to wrest control of a hill eight kilometres away, which overlooks the O Smach. They have forced royalist soldiers up to northwestern Cambodia after effectively ousting First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh from Phnom Penh in July.

When the afternoon assault began, artillery was moved in closer to hit a second ridge where the headquarters of FUNCINPEC Party forces loyal to Prince Ranariddh were located.

Royalists and their new Khmer Rouge allies answered back with their own artillery as Mr. Hun Sen's forces moved in from three sides.

Khmer Rouge soldiers were seen across a field heading into battle with a mobile rocket launcher.

Earlier Monday, a FUNCINPEC soldier told AFP the royalists had sufficient troops and ammunition to defend their last base.

"We have bullets. We can fight," the soldier said.

Thai military sources earlier said Mr. Hun Sen's forces would soon take the village because the royalists were desperately short of ammunition.

Prince Ranariddh said in Manila Monday that his forces were inflicting heavy losses on Mr. Hun Sen's men. He said he had spoken to the chief of his forces, General Nhiek Bun Chhay, by telephone before meeting Philippine President Fidel Ramos.

"I have just been briefed by General Bun Chhay. He told me that Hun Sen's forces lost a lot of people," in fighting at O Smach, Prince Ranariddh said. The FUNCINPEC soldier said dozens of fighters under commanders belonging to Mr. Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP) were injured in

Sunday's small-arms fighting.

He said there were about 5,000 troops defending O Smach, including fighters from factions of the Khmer Rouge rebel movement, which border sources said numbered 600 to 700.

Thai sources estimated the number of FUNCINPEC soldiers at around 2,000, supplemented by the Khmer Rouge.

Meanwhile, Prince Ranariddh was in Manila on a tour of Association of South East Asian Nations capitals, seeking political support from the regional grouping to counter Mr. Hun Sen's consolidation of power in Phnom Penh.

He confirmed Khmer Rouge guerrillas had been integrated into his forces and said they no longer considered themselves members of the infamous rebel group.

"All of Khmer Rouge. Pol Pot's forces, they are now entirely and fully part of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and they do not consider themselves Khmer Rouge anymore," Prince Ranariddh told reporters in Manila.

Prince Ranariddh also said that Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot should stand trial before an international court on charges of committing crimes against humanity.

"I am not hopeless that I would have — in the near future and when the country will go back to normal and if Mr. Pol Pot is still alive — (a chance) to bring him to an international court for a 'real trial,' the prince said at a news conference.

He said it would be "very interesting" to hear the Khmer Rouge leader's side of his 1975 to 1979 regime, under which more than one million Cambodians died.

The prince added the trial should also shed light on the "responsibilities" of Cambodian strongman Hun Sen, a former Khmer Rouge member, and acting head of state.

The commander of Thai forces in the area, Major General Chirarak Prommopakorn, told reporters in the Thai town of Chong Chom opposite O Smach that non-governmental organisations had been allowed to provide humanitarian assistance across the border.

Speaking before fighting resumed, Gen. Chirarak said there was no immediate need to provide refuge to O Smach's civilians.

"Thailand has contacted leaders in O Smach, and they say it is not necessary for the civilians to cross to Thailand now. The fighting is still far enough away," he said.

A temporary hospital set up on the Cambodian side of the border housed about 60 patients. The majority were being treated for malaria while many others were suffering from diarrhoea.

Tajik government troops attack rebel positions

DUSHANBE (R) — Troops loyal to Tajik President Imomali Rakhmonov Monday attacked positions held by rebels under the command of mutinous Colonel Makhmud Khudoyberdiyev in southern Tajikistan, Russian news agencies said.

TASS said fierce fighting broke out around a bridge near the village of Garavati, which straddles routes to the Shaaruz and Kabodien regions in southern Tajikistan where the rebels' main forces are concentrated.

Interfax news agency said Mr. Rakhmonov's guards were encircling Col. Khudoyberdiyev's brigade to try to prevent some rebel units from joining the main force.

Interfax quoted the head of the presidential guard,

General Gafar Mirzoyev, as saying Col. Khudoyberdiyev's men were using Grad multiple missile launchers and artillery against his troops, advancing near Garavati along the Kurgan Tyube-Kabodien road.

Over the weekend, the Tajik government sent more troops to the area and sporadic fire fights broke out there between the rebels and government troops. Mr. Rakhmonov's commanders said they were ready to destroy the last pockets of rebel resistance.

Rebels, who said they would fight to the bitter end, denied they were retreating towards neighbouring Uzbekistan. Tajik army sources said Saturday that Col. Khudoyberdiyev and his men

could be seen heading towards the Uzbek border.

Uzbek Border Guards had stepped up their patrols.

The latest turmoil in Tajikistan came weeks after Mr. Rakhmonov, who is backed by Moscow, signed a peace agreement with Islamic opposition guerrillas aimed at ending four years of civil war in the impoverished former Soviet republic.

The Islamic guerrillas were not involved in the latest clashes, when Col. Khudoyberdiyev joined the fray, moving his brigade towards the capital, Dushanbe, a week ago.

He appeared to suffer some setbacks in four days of fighting and Mr. Rakhmonov said Wednesday that he had been dismissed. Rus-

sian troops, 20,000 of whom are garrisoned in Tajikistan, did not take part in the fighting.

Col. Khudoyberdiyev and his men refused to hand over their weapons, saying the government could not guarantee their safety, and moved out of their stronghold of Kurgan Tyube, 110 kilometres south of Dushanbe.

On Monday there were almost no signs of military presence in Kurgan Tyube.

Local people began leaving their homes after several days indoors and were going to work Monday. Some shops were open and a few cars were moving on the streets. The Dushanbe-Kurgan Tyube highway was controlled by government forces.

Taiwan says talks with China to resume in 1998

TAIPEI (R) — Long stalled talks between Taipei and Beijing were expected to resume in 1998, the Commercial Times quoted Taipei's chief negotiator as saying Monday.

The newspaper quoted Koo Chen-Fu, chairman of Taipei's Straits Exchange Foundation, as saying he was expected to resume negotiations with his Beijing counterpart in 1998.

"Relations on the both sides of the (Taiwan) Strait have recovered from their lowest ebb and the long-suspended talks should resume next year," Mr. Koo told the newspaper in an

interview.

Mr. Koo last met his Beijing counterpart, Wang Daoban of the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait, in Singapore on April 29, 1993.

A series of technical meetings on civilian issues followed but talks have been suspended since mid-1995 after Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui paid a private but high-profile visit to the United States.

China, which views Taiwan as a renegade province since a civil war split them in 1949, said Mr. Lee's visit was an attempt to promote the island's independence

rather than reunification with the mainland.

In a sign that tensions may have thawed, the Mainland Affairs Council, Taiwan's top policy making body towards China, has reportedly said the island was ready for official talks with the mainland.

The Council's Chairman Chang King-Yuh said Saturday both sides could conduct official talks to discuss a wide range of issues, including ending hostility across the Taiwan Strait, the exchange of visits between both sides' leaders, signing a peace agreement, and direct trade and investment

links.

Taiwan has repeatedly urged China to reopen talks, but Beijing has consistently declined, saying this was not possible until Taiwan showed its sincerity by dropping its "splitting" activities.

Taipei claims Taiwan and China are two equal political entities ruled by two governments. But Beijing says Taiwan is a province of China that falls under its sovereignty.

Beijing also says its People's Republic of China government is the legitimate ruler of all China.

Attackers kill 2 Kenyans overnight

MOMBASSA (R) — Attackers slashed two Kenyans including a priest to death overnight in the Indian Ocean port of Mombassa, raising the toll from violence in the area to at least 33 dead since Wednesday.

Witnesses said a priest and a vigilante group member were killed in Mishi-moroni district on the edge of Mombassa.

Coast police Chief Francis Gichuki confirmed two people had been slashed with machetes overnight in Mombassa but dismissed the incidents as "pure thugery." Police said Sunday night had been the quietest since a raid on police posts last Wednesday.

After news of the killings, the Kenyan shilling slid to a new official low against the U.S. dollar as foreign investors pulled out because of worries over the economy and politics.

The shilling depreciated by 1.3 per cent Monday morning to \$70.68 to the from \$69.75 at the opening.

Monday's slide brought the shilling's losses to 18.79 per cent against the dollar since the International Monetary Fund cancelled a key aid package on July 31, citing corruption.

A total of 16 suspects among 69 people arrested since last Wednesday were charged in Mombassa's Magistrates' Court Monday with possessing weapons

including bows and arrows but no guns.

Legal sources said the charging of the 16 with possession of traditional weapons showed they were not apparently at the heart of the attacks, otherwise they would have faced murder charges.

"We are still talking to the main suspects. We are holding some," said Kenya police spokesman, Peter Kimani in Nairobi.

He declined to say anything more about the main suspects of the violence, which President Daniel Arap Moi has blamed on opposition leaders fanning tribal hatred ahead of elections.

Some opposition leaders accuse Mr. Moi's ruling Kenya African National Union (KANU) of orchestrating the well-planned attacks, which began with the killing of six police and eight civilians Wednesday in raids on two police posts south of Mombassa.

All 16 pleaded not guilty in Mombassa and Chief Magistrate Aggrey Muchelule said he would rule Tuesday on whether to grant bail, opposed by police prosecutor, Gideon Kimilu.

"If the accused are released on bond when the situation is still volatile, they are likely to continue with the same offences," Mr. Kimilu told the Mombassa

court. "Investigations are ongoing and we are likely to prefer more serious charges."

None of the 16, all from the Coast area, were represented by lawyers. They all wore tattered clothes. One had a head wound, another a bandaged arm and a third a shirt stained with blood.

In Diani Beach, a tourist haven south of Mombassa, witnesses said Monday a workshop and a kiosk were set ablaze overnight. A police, army and navy hunt has failed to stop the attacks.

Thousands of tourists have been told to stay in beach hotels on the coast north and south of Mombassa but none have been hurt in violence. Hundreds of Kenyans have fled the coast region.

Residents said those Kenyans killed were mainly people who originally came from outside the coastal region. They pointed to leaflets, hand-written in Swahili and distributed in the area.

"The time has come for us, original inhabitants of the coast to claim what is rightly ours. We must remove these invaders from our land," said the pamphlets, which echoed ethnic slogans painted on walls and roads near some of the clash sites.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1971.

Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan. Telephones: 684311, 699634. Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO. Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Grounds laid for compromise

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein has made it well-known to all sides during his visits to Ma'an and Aqaba last week and Tafleeh yesterday that the door is still wide open for a meaningful dialogue with the opposition on the upcoming parliamentary elections provided that the Constitution, the National Charter, the one-person, one-vote formula are respected. This suggests that all other outstanding issues and controversies can be debated and resolved. The political parties which professed their intentions to boycott the next general elections should seize the offer to improve the overall political climate in the country in a serious bid to make the November 4 elections a story of national success.

If we take His Majesty's fixed parameters in reverse order, the one-person, one-vote formula, adopted by the sitting Parliament as the basis for the next elections, would not pose a problem to any side even though, in principle, proportional representation should be made an integral part of it. After all the basic law of the Kingdom calls for equal treatment of Jordanians which when translated into electoral terms would mean equal voting powers for each and every citizen. There is nothing in the law that prevents the government from amending the Election Law along this line, even at this late hour.

Successive governments have conditioned the application of proportional representation on the final resolution of the Palestinian question when Jordanians of Palestinian origin could be afforded the opportunity to decide where they would like their homeland to be. On this score, there might be some room for manoeuvring, by striking a balance between the principle of proportionality and the political realities in the country. Maintaining the status quo, though, strikes us as unfair and even unconstitutional.

As for the organic law of the country, it goes without saying that any proposed amendments to it must be carefully examined before they are entertained. The rule of thumb in all jurisdictions across the globe is that constitutions should remain stable and not open to periodic changes unless there is a compelling reason to do so.

The King's call for respecting the sanctity of the Constitution is obviously vindicated on every count until there is a national consensus for amending it. Admittedly there is always room for perfecting our basic law but this needs to be pursued with utmost prudence and care. With regard to the National Charter, which was unanimously adopted by all political groups in 1991, it too must be viewed as sacrosanct and untouchable unless absolutely necessary. Accordingly neither the Constitution nor the National Charter should be bargaining chips in the run-up to the elections.

Once these guidelines are observed, there is no reason why the opposition-government dialogue that opened on Sunday cannot proceed in a constructive manner and be fruitful. Even though the meeting between representatives from the two sides was inconclusive, even preliminary, the next rounds of talks should be capable of resulting in a modus operandi to hold and govern the elections. The government must at least freeze the amendments it introduced in May to the 1993 Press and Publications Law not only as a goodwill gesture to the voters at large but also because the law itself is undemocratic and highly controversial. Then the rest of the issues can be resolved to the satisfaction of all sides.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily raised the question of the U.S. Congress's support for Israel and the Zionists, and its siding by injustice caused to the Arabs. Sultan Hattab said that while the wealthy Arabs and rich Arab governments spend fortunes on unnecessary items, the Jews in the United States spend their money on buying congressmen in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and so they guarantee these congressmen's continued support for Israel's policies and moves to supply the Jewish states with arms and financial aid to pursue its aggression. The writer quoted figures from a recent report published in the United States, showing that the Jewish lobby there spent \$28 million between 1984 and 1996 on buying U.S. Congressmen who, once elected, feel they have to pay back the Jews not with money but with support for Israel's expansionist programmes. According to the writer, the Arabs spent a mere \$190,000 in the last congressional elections on buying voices to back the Arab cause; and naturally, this meagre amount achieved nothing. The writer noted that the Jews are now buying parliament members in European countries, including Russia, while the Arabs are spending their wealth on their own pleasures and winning no voice in their favour. He said no matter how high the Arabs may cry out for help, no one is going to come to their aid as long as their wealth is spent on matters that by no means can win a single voice in their favour.

The View from the Fourth Circle

Zionism's complex journey: From Bethel to Babylon to Basle to Bibi

By Rami G. Khouri

EXACTLY A century ago, in August 1897, the First Zionist Congress was held in Basle, Switzerland. It resulted in the establishment of the Zionist Organisation, on the basis of the Basle Programme that was adopted by some European activists for political Zionism who assembled at Basle. It may be useful today to review the aims of the Basle programme alongside the current condition and policies of the modern Israeli state that was conceived precisely one hundred years ago. Such an exercise reveals the darker side of Zionism that is expressed by men and women like the current prime minister of Israel, Benjamin (Bibi) Netanyahu, for whom historical Jewish vulnerability and suffering now prompt reciprocal acts of violence, subjugation and even some apartheid-like behaviour by Jews against Palestinians and other Arabs.

The Basle conference and programme were milestones on a long Jewish historical road that started at Bethel, in Palestine, according to the biblical book of Genesis, where God reportedly promised to give forever to Abraham and his descendants all the land "which thou seest". While this episode is largely interpreted by biblical scholars as essentially a moral transaction — God makes the Jews a nation and people in return for their spreading his moral message among the peoples of our world — Jewish and other Zionists have interpreted it as a territorial grant and political pledge. The Jews' attachment to Palestine and their sense of vulnerability as a people were both heightened in the 6th Century BC, after King Nebuchadnezzar sacked Jerusalem and the Jewish temple in 587 BC and exiled the Jews to Babylon. The trauma of European Jews was rekindled in the late 19th Century by crude acts of anti-Jewish anti-Semitism such as the Dreyfus Affair in France, which helped spark the birth of the modern Zionist movement, especially Theodor Herzl's call for a Jewish state in Palestine.

The Basle Conference in 1897 declared the Jewish people's intent to strive for a "publicly and legally secured home in Palestine for the Jewish people," which would be achieved via "the appropriate promotion of colonisation" in Palestine by Jews, "the organisation and gathering of all Jews", the promotion of "Jewish national feeling and consciousness", and preparatory steps to attain government consent "to achieve the

aim of Zionism."

It would seem today that all the aims of the Basle Programme have been achieved: the Jewish people have a sovereign state in Palestine which has been colonised by Jews who have been organised and gathered there and in other parts of the world. Jewish national feeling and consciousness are strong, and most governments around the world have recognised Israel. Also, anti-Semitism against Jews, though perpetrated by some people, is actively fought by governments and civil groups around the world. For the Jews, it would seem, the promise of Bethel has been achieved: the historical, enduring sense of Jewish helplessness, as manifested for example by the Babylonian exile and virulent European anti-Semitism, has been largely erased; and the state of Israel today is economically vigorous, militarily strong, culturally vibrant, and politically secure and recognised.

In view of the ability of Jews and Zionists to achieve the broad aims of their century-old political programme, why is Benjamin Netanyahu's government pursuing aggressive and provocative policies such as continued Jewish colonisation of Palestinian and Syrian lands, attacks against Lebanese civilians, ethnic cleansing of Jerusalem and other Palestinian areas, confiscation of Arab lands, mass collective punishment of Palestinian communities, demolishing Palestinian houses, and apartheid-like policies in the land, water and social services sectors in Israel and occupied Palestine? Is this what Zionism and the Basle Programme aimed to achieve? Are these the moral and political principles that the Jewish people committed to in their multiple ancient covenants with God? Or is Benjamin Netanyahu, in fact, merely a crude cartoon of those Jews who worship power as an antidote to their powerlessness, and who subjugate and oppress others as retribution for their own subjugation and oppression? Is Bibi Netanyahu, in fact, not a harbinger of a hopeful and peaceful Jewish future, but a throwback to its dark and tortured past?

Appropriately, a South African friend who follows Arab-Israeli issues, commenting on the Israeli settlements, recently brought to my attention the words of the Bible in Isaiah 58: "Woe to you who add house to house and join field to field till no space is left and you live alone in the land."

Israel today faces a challenge similar to that which faced the South African apartheid regime a decade ago — either continue policies that are criticised by the entire world and that generate domestic violent resistance; or change course and adopt new policies that can promote long-term national vigour and security based on a powerful combination of ancient moral values and contemporary human dignity for all.

Israelis and Zionists cannot expect to continue colonising Arab lands — adding house to house and joining field to field — and also to receive the recognition and friendship of the neighbouring Arab peoples. Israelis who seek acceptance and security for their state in the Middle East should review their own history and relearn the lessons of the consequences of the use of sovereign power. The repeated humiliation, denial, exile and suffering of Jews in history at the hands of other sovereign powers prompted a political and then a military Zionist movement that finally secured a Jewish state. Continued Israeli humiliation and denial of Palestinian and other Arab rights will lead to similar consequences; the last two decades indicate that random violence and terror against Jews will be a common means of expressing the traumatic Arab response to Israeli state policies that insist on perpetuating Jewish colonisation and the acquisition of land by force. Just as Jewish history has travelled a complex and often painful path — from Bethel to Babylon to Basle and finally to Bibi Netanyahu — so will the trajectory of Palestinian and Arab history pass through comparable milestones of suffering, rebirth and retribution.

The centennial of the Basle Conference this month should prompt us to consider whether this Zionist and Arab cycle of weakness and strength, of aggression and revenge, will continue in perpetuity or will reach an end that is merciful and fair to all concerned. This month, August 1997, a century after August 1897, should cause us to recall the many reasons that prompted Jews to embark on a movement of what they saw as national salvation and preservation. It should also prompt Jews and Israelis to assess the conduct of their government today in light of their own, self-proclaimed standards of moral conduct and political goals, whether as expressed by Old Testament prophetic books or by late 19th century national declarations.

Compensation for Palestinian casualties 'is not a legal question but a political-national one'

By Elias M. Zamaniri

JERUSALEM — It was one of those days of tight closure which Israel imposed on the occupied territories and on the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) areas after the intifada broke out again in September 1996, following Israel's decision to open the tunnel under the Al Aqsa Mosque in the Old City of Jerusalem. Movement was banned not only between Israel and the PNA areas or the occupied territories but also within the Palestinian areas themselves.

During that day, the family of Mohammad Sarahin, from the village of Beit Ula near Hebron, rushed their way to Hadassah Hospital in West Jerusalem to treat their two-year-old child who was born with leukaemia. Abiding by instructions of their Israeli doctor, the family decided to rush the child to hospital soon after they noticed he had a fever. Their supposedly one-hour trip to Jerusalem lasted more than three hours when soldiers manning the roadblocks delayed their vehicle for at least two hours. In vain did the man try to explain to soldiers how important time factor was for him. It did not help and the child was declared dead before he arrived to the hospital.

Yet, as if the tragedy of the Sarahin family was not enough, a newly-introduced law that was adopted by the Israeli government and had already been ratified by its Knesset in its first reading, pending its final ratification in the second and third readings, bans the Sarahin family and thousands of Palestinian families of victims of Israeli occupation from filing compensation suits with the Israeli courts of law.

For Palestinians in general, the question of compensation for losses inflicted by the Israeli army is not that of financial support to families. They see in it a means to extract from Israel admission of responsibility for injustice it caused to the Palestinians throughout the years of the military occupation, since June 1967 in general, and since the outbreak of the Palestinian uprising against Israel, in December 1987 in particular. The new law was introduced mainly to deny Palestinians killed or wounded during the intifada access to Israeli courts where they would claim compensation for their casualties.

On the other hand, Israel seems to be adamant in its stand not allowing Palestinians access to demand compensation for the intifada period out of fear of setting a legal precedent that would give chance to

Palestinians evicted from their homeland in 1948 to demand compensation too, though their right to compensation, or to return, had been repeatedly affirmed by various United Nations resolutions.

In so doing, the Israeli government insists on considering Palestinians killed or injured in the course of the Palestinian intifada as victims of acts of war, who are not eligible for compensation. But, on the other hand, it does not recognise the status of Palestinians who fought the Israeli army as prisoners of war. That is why Israel, so far, keeps thousands of Palestinian prisoners in its own jails and has failed to release them even though it signed the interim peace accords with the PLO.

During the deliberations that accompanied the preparations for this law, in the former Israeli government under Yitzhak Rabin, the late prime minister, his attorney general, Michael Ben Yair, and his minister of justice, David Libai, were searching for a formula that would bypass the Israeli law and find legal foundations for denying the Palestinians their right to demand compensation.

Rabin was furious at the figures presented to him by both the defence ministry and the attorney general's office about thousands of compensation claims filed by Palestinians. His assassination did not bring the issue to an end and Shimon Peres, who took over after Rabin, sounded more ruthless and wanted to go ahead with the planned bill faster than before.

"It is not a legal question but a political-national one," Peres told Ben Yair during one of those deliberations. "In my capacity as the head of the political echelon, I can tell you it is inconceivable for us to pay compensation for an intifada that was imposed on us. They had revolted against us to uproot the state. There hasn't been a nation in the world that had paid compensation under such circumstances and there is no reason for us to do otherwise," said Peres. He added that Israel has not demanded compensation from the Palestinians for those Israelis who were killed or wounded during acts of hostilities between the two sides and would expect the Palestinians to follow suit. "What about our killed and wounded? Who is going to compensate them? Should reciprocity be applied. I would be ready to consider paying compensation, otherwise, each party should bear its own responsibilities," said Peres.

Then minister of finance, Abraham Shohat, agreed with what Peres said and even added that there were no grounds whatsoever for Israel to compensate Palestinian victims of the uprising once the authority in the territories has been handed over to the PNA, which has become responsible for the Palestinians who live in the areas vacated by the Israeli troops. Said Shohat: "The intifada was part of the armed struggle that the PLO had launched against Israel and therefore, whoever had suffered damage, even by accidental means, is exactly like whoever suffers damage in a state of war."

But Peres and Shohat have seemingly forgotten the fact that Israeli troops which conquered the West Bank and the Gaza Strip had done so by means of military power and were not invited by the Palestinians to do so. In other words, the Israeli troops were the occupiers. No occupier has proved it was eligible to be compensated for casualties it suffered in the course of occupying the land of another nation.

The debate that followed the presentation of the bill involved legal, moral and ethical arguments not only among the Palestinians but also among a number of Israeli bodies that advocate human and civil rights. At a press conference held on July 22, Professor Uriel Procaccia, dean of the Faculty of Law at the Hebrew University in West Jerusalem, openly admitted that the new bill is "unconstitutional, corrupt and lacks any substance." He said the bill uses "deceptive techniques where it does not say that the state can shoot Palestinians but it still avoids claiming responsibility once the shooting is done and Palestinians are either killed or wounded."

Eitan Felner, executive director of B'tzelem, an Israeli organisation that monitors human rights violations by Israel in the occupied territories, said the bill "is one of the greatest injustices done in 30 years of occupation." He added the bill is a flagrant attempt by Israel to escape responsibility for its killing and injuring of Palestinians and that it forms an obstacle on the road to achieving coexistence between the Palestinian people and the Israelis.

The new bill expands, in a very artificial way, the definition of "combatant activity" and exempts the Israeli government from liability for the vast majority of the activities of the Israeli army and its various security branches in the occupied territories. It gives only one exception to this exemption: when an Israeli soldier, or any other

security man, is convicted of "intentional infliction of the injury that was the subject of the claim." Therefore, the failure to indict, in the past and in the future, Israeli soldiers or others, will of course exempt the Israeli authorities from paying compensation.

The draft law enables the Israeli courts to deny an injured party, convicted in the past of "committing a serious act of terror", the right to compensation, even if there is no connection between the conviction and the injury that is the basis of the claim. In other words, Israel is introducing a law which leaves room to punish a person twice for the same act, something that contradicts the basic principles of penalty law.

In proposing the bill, the Israeli government seeks to place the burden of proof always on the plaintiff, even where the facts are not at his disposal, such as the type of weapons fired, or the directives given to the soldiers that fired. The bill also offers a negative incentive to the Israeli army and makes negligent investigations expedient because, without the detailed findings of an investigation, the facts will not be available to the plaintiff.

Advocate Hala Khouri, of the Centre for the Defence of the Individual in East Jerusalem, said the most serious part of the bill is the fact that it gives moral support to the Israeli soldiers who would feel free to open fire on Palestinians without the fear of being indicted as long as the compensation principle is denied by the Israeli government from the beginning. She said: "It is near impossible for the Palestinian plaintiff to provide evidence to the Israeli court because all data relevant to operational activities of the Israeli army is kept with the Israeli military command where nobody can be sure that the daily log of events would include details of that specific shooting incident in which the plaintiff was wounded."

Besides, she said, how would the Palestinian plaintiff provide ballistic evidence when it is totally inconceivable to suggest that the Israeli army would be ready to hand over weapons of its own soldiers to the PNA for ballistic tests to establish whether the plaintiff was wounded by those soldiers or not. Moreover, she went on, the daily log of operational activities, if obtained by the Palestinians (and this is very rare in itself), would be first subject to military censorship where names of operatives are deleted and where perhaps some information that might

end up being vital for the investigation is also omitted, deliberately or unintentionally, thus derailing the investigation.

The bill limits the period of time in which a suit for damages must be filed to one year, instead of the seven years under the existing law. Because of the extensive duration of investigations and the delay in submitting the conclusions to the attorneys of the plaintiffs, filing of claims would become extremely difficult, if not impossible. Besides, legal proceedings against the relevant soldier are almost never concluded within a year. The result is clear: a long delay in the investigation or prosecution exempts the Israeli authorities from liability.

The law stipulates that a person whose degree of permanent medical disability does not exceed ten per cent is not entitled to compensation. The compensation available to a person whose degree of permanent medical disability exceeds ten per cent shall be based on the average salary in the area of the residence of the injured person and thus, will be significantly lower than that available today in Israel where compensation is based on actual figures. The average income of a Palestinian in the occupied territories or in the PNA areas is no more than \$300, while in Israel it is over \$1,500. Therefore, for the sake of simple calculation, a 20-year-old Palestinian youth whose medical disability is confirmed 100 per cent is eligible for payment of one per cent of the average income for each

percentage of his disability, multiplied by the number of months until he is 65 years old. Applying the same rule to Israelis, a huge difference can be seen, in which the Palestinian receives a sum of \$162,000 while an Israeli who goes through similar circumstances receives a sum of \$810,000. Moreover, if the Palestinian plaintiff is a talented person who earns far more than the average income in the PNA, he would still be paid on the basis of the average income, regardless of his salary. A surgeon who makes, for instance, some \$10,000 a month and is shot and maimed in the hand and his disability is confirmed would be paid on the basis that his monthly income does not exceed the \$300 average.

Once the bill is ratified by the Israeli Knesset, the only means left for the Palestinians to fight is the Israeli High Court which has to decide whether introducing the bill is constitutional and acceptable from a legal point of view. Israel still argues that it should not pay any compensation to the Palestinian victims of the uprising but it has no problem insisting on receiving the annual compensations from the government of Germany for atrocities carried out by Nazi Germany against Jews.

The writer, who worked for the WTN and MBC television, is currently correspondent for the Gulf Today and the Jerusalem Times. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

Killing is barbaric

To the Editor:

IT IS astounding to me that Michael Jansen can draw explanations for the bombing of innocent people, like she did in the article "Suicide bombing happens when Palestinian popular frustration over Israeli failure to implement the accords is at its highest" (Jordan Times, Aug. 17, 1997).

I'm sure Timothy McVeigh has what he thinks is an explanation too. This does not address the question of the barbaric notion that killing indiscriminately will somehow make a statement.

I am sure Jordanians love such rationalisations, but have the courage to condemn such acts in the name of morality and protection of all people, no matter what differences there are.

Karen Kataline, KAYKAT73@webtv.net

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any issue they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request but only under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing and abridging.

Robit McKie

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Pygmy chimps show that peace and love may come naturally to humans

By Robin McKie

PEERING INTO the eyes of a pygmy chimpanzee may reveal a strange secret: a glimpse of our ancient apeman ancestors. Scientists now believe these graceful cousins of the common chimpanzee share many features with australopithecines, a four-million-year-old forebear of Homo Sapiens.

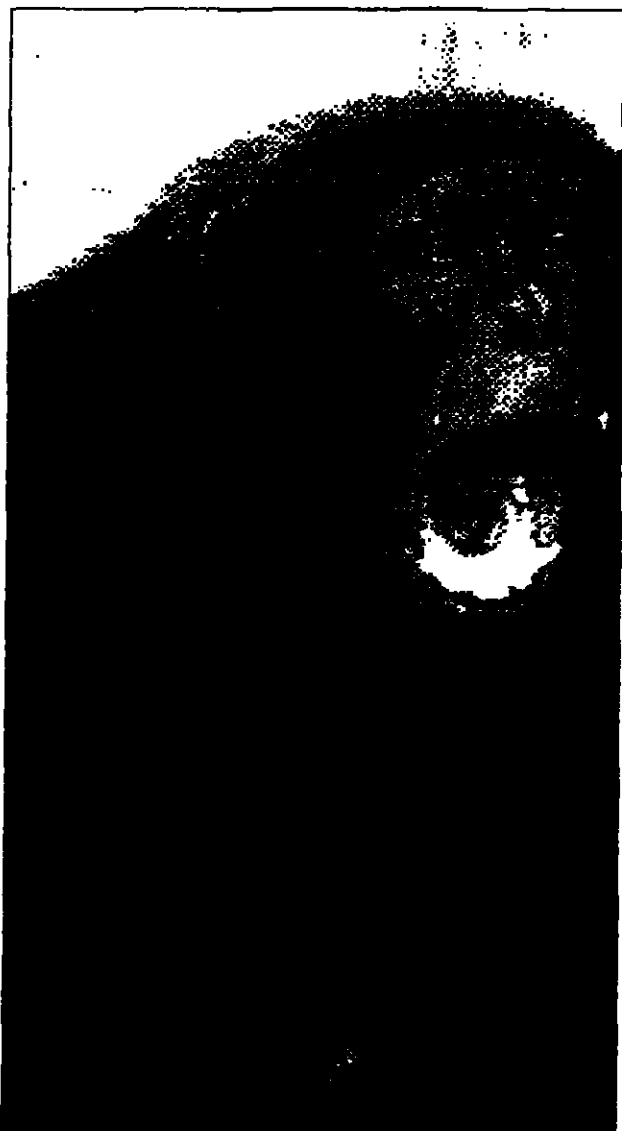
According to Professor Frans de Waal of the Yerkes Regional Primate Centre in Atlanta, the pygmy chimpanzee, or bonobo, is probably the best model we have of "the so-called missing link."

But as Prof. de Waal stresses in "Bonobo: The Forgotten Ape" (published this month by University of California), this does not mean bonobos are the missing link. He and fellow researchers merely argue that bonobos resemble more closely the type of creature from which we evolved than any other living animal.

"The bonobo may have undergone less transformation than either humans or chimpanzees, and could most closely resemble our common ancestor," states Prof. de Waal.

As a result, when we look at these creatures, we see features that have changed only slightly over the past six million years: diminutive stature, long arms and small brains.

This similarity has profound implications for understanding our own nature and our evolution. It is believed that humans



and apes shared a common ancestor about six million years ago. Then the two lines began evolving in different directions until, three million years ago, the ape line split in two. One led to the chimpanzee; the other to a slightly smaller, more graceful type of ape: the

bonobo. But until recently little was known about the bonobo, and most comparisons between our behaviour and that of the apes concentrated on similarities between chimps and humans. As a result, it was assumed that male-domi-

nated, fairly violent societies are the norm. Recent work on the bonobo challenges this assumption, however.

"Had bonobos been known earlier, reconstruction of human evolution might have emphasised sexual relations, equality between males and females and the origin of the family, instead of war, hunting, tool technology and other masculine fortes," says Prof. de Waal.

Ignorance about the bonobo stems from the fact that they were only discovered in 1929, and that there are only about 10,000 members of the species, all living in a small fragment of forest in central Zaire.

However, when bonobos were studied by scientists, they produced a distinct shock, for the creatures were found to have staggering sexual appetites. As a consequence, they have been depicted as lustful satyrs who will have sex at the drop of a hat — or a banana, an apple, or anything else that succumbs to the effects of gravity.

And it is true they have a healthy urge to have sex. As Prof. de Waal puts it: "Bonobos engage in sex in virtually every partner combination."

This behaviour has a basic ulterior — but unconscious — motive. Sex is used as a substitute for aggression, as a means of defusing tension.

And in this non-violent society, freed from the fear of male aggression,

females control food resources and dominate the males. "Bonobos provide a concrete alternative to macho evolutionary models derived from the behaviour of baboons and chimpanzees," adds Prof. de Waal. "They also thoroughly upset the idea that sex is solely intended for procreation. From now on, any reference to biology in support of this claim will backfire."

However, similarities that we have with bonobos, or for that matter chimps, are not sufficient on their own to explain every aspect of human evolution. Prof. de Waal acknowledges. Special factors have produced unique human characteristics, particularly the nuclear family in which males and females share the raising of offspring — a phenomenon unique in the ape world and whose origin is not yet understood.

Nevertheless, non-aggressive bonobos, with their powerful female lobby and egalitarian social structure, provide as useful a model for understanding human evolution as any other species, particularly as it is based on an animal with whom we share 98 per cent of our genetic make-up. As Prof. de Waal states: "If we look after the bonobo, we may for a long time share this planet with a family member that affords us an entirely new look at ourselves."

The Observer



Aggressive chimps like the one above, left, may not be our true forebears. Bonobos (right), undiscovered until 1929, live in harmony in a society that emphasises equality between males and females

King visits Tafileh

(Continued from page 1)

brothers to us and they are free to participate in or refrain from taking part in the coming elections.

King Hussein reminded the audience of the circumstances prevailing in the country in the 1950s when he said several political parties mushroomed, but these were quarrelling with one another and were affiliated and loyal to other Arab countries, with the result that problems of the Arab World at the time were transferred to the Jordanian arena causing a setback to political life in the Kingdom.

Referring to other opposition parties, the King said, "all in all, they do not include more than a thousand members put together but these parties should adjust to the Jordanian laws and regulations."

Referring to the government, the King said, "my government enjoys my full

confidence and it is now holding a dialogue with different parties, but the dialogue is not with particular groups but with all parties and whoever wants to participate in the elections and also with those who do not want to take part."

In his address, the King said, "Jordan is in a race against time and against others in the course of construction and in a bid to fulfil our aspirations and our fathers' and grandfathers' aspirations."

Referring to requests by the citizens of Tafileh voiced by prominent personalities in their speeches at the rally, King Hussein said, "tourism projects will soon see the light," noting that these projects will be at the Afra Spa and the Dana archaeological site.

As for education, King Hussein said, "the Tafileh Community College is a nucleus for a university

which will be created in Tafileh city."

He referred to Al Hasa and the Jordan Valley region as industrial regions which he said will be given due attention in the course of developing the Tafileh Governorate.

At the outset of the visit, King Hussein, who was accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Their Royal Highnesses Princesses Hamzeh and Hashem, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other officials, inspected the Prince Zeid Ben Al Hussein Military Hospital and was briefed on its activities.

Later, the King visited the Tafileh Polytechnic College where he was briefed by its dean, Faisal Ghaishan, about the training courses in the college which was established in 1986.

Politicians call on government to exert more effort in dialogue

(Continued from page 1)

But Ibrahim Izzeddine, former minister of information, stressed the importance of the opposition's participation in the elections in a bid to enhance the seven-year-old democratic process though urged the government to take stronger initiatives in its dialogue with the opposition.

"There is no alternative but to continue in the path of dialogue. (If opposition and politicians insist on boycotting the elections) it is the whole country and not the government who would be affected," Mr. Izzeddine said. "Democracy is not a luxury, it is something we need."

Until the speech of His Majesty King Hussein in Ma'an last week, the atmosphere between the government and the opposition was particularly tense. The Muslim Brotherhood, followed by the Islamic Action Front and most of the opposition political parties decided to boycott the elections against what they saw as massive infringements on democracy. They listed the electoral system, the Press and Publications Law, the need to amend the Constitution, degradation in the economy and the lack of respect for public freedoms as main reasons for their boycott decision.

In his speech, the King, pointing to the positive contributions of the opposition, Islamists in particular to the Kingdom's democratic experience, stressed on the need of the participation of political forces in the upcoming elections and, calling for dialogue, the King expressed interest in seeing democracy thrive in the country.

"The King was very clear in his speech (about the need to initiate dialogue)," Mr. Izzeddine said. "The King has given a signal (of endorsing dialogue) and so did the Islamists. Now there should be positive signs from the government."

In their public statements, the Islamists showed willingness to reschedule some of their demands. Leader of the Muslim Brotherhood Abdul Majid Thuneibat said in a previous interview to the Jordan Times that Islamists are not expecting things to change overnight. They know that the amendment of the Constitution, for example, can take time for it to happen, he said.

But the government can freeze the application of the Press and Publications Law and promote public freedoms, was one of the suggestions of Islamic Action Front Deputy Bassam Emoush.

Mr. Izzeddine, who pointed to the positive experience of Islamists in Jordan as a rare model in the Arab and Muslim World, stressed that the government should be more keen towards dialogue with the largest opposition bloc in the country. He said the government should be pressured into reaching a solution by taking stronger initiatives towards reconciliation with the opposition and the Islamists "who have already shown positive signs in that regard."

George Haddad, a prominent columnist in Al-Dustour daily said the personalities who signed the statement are ready to reverse their boycott decision if there was progress in dialogue between the opposition and the government.

"The government has to take a step. The situation is unbearable," Dr. Haddad said.

Analysts believe that the charged atmosphere is expected to rein until the elections in November unless the government takes drastic measures "to stop appointing some and sacking others because of their opinions," according to Mr. Izzeddine.

Israel to transfer part of frozen funds

(Continued from page 1)

participants later had dinner together at a restaurant in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

The Palestinians' West Bank security chief, Jibril Rajoub, who participated in the meeting, confirmed Monday that the Palestinians gave Israel some explosives found in a bomb factory in the West Bank town of Beit Sahour last month.

Israel tested the explosives to see if they matched those used in the bombing in Jerusalem. Mr. Rajoub told AP, Mr. Rajoub said the Palestinians were not told by Israel whether the Beit Sahour explosives were the same type as those used in the Jerusalem blast.

The European Union

envoy to the Middle East, Miguel Moratinos, also said Sunday's meeting went well. "I think the Israelis will now come to be more satisfied in security matters," he told reporters after a meeting with Mr. Arafat in the Gaza Strip Monday.

It was not clear when and if the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be eased. In response to the bombing, Israel had sealed the West Bank and Gaza Strip, barring 100,000 Palestinian workers from their jobs in Israel. Palestinians have complained that the closure is strangling their economy. On Sunday, Mr. Arafat's self-rule government said it would gradually implement a boycott of Israeli products to counter

Israel's travel ban and economic sanctions.

In a first step Monday, several Israeli trucks trying to bring Israeli goods into the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip were turned back at a Palestinian checkpoint, a Palestinian colonel said.

The officer, Hisham Dasuki, said certain Israeli products, such as fruits and electronics, would not be allowed into the Gaza Strip. He would not say how many trucks were turned back.

Mr. Masri said there was no official lists of Israeli products to be barred, but that in principle the Palestinians would keep out all those products that are also made in Palestinian factories.

UNICEF sees peril in falling aid to developing countries

(Continued from page 1)

except South East Asia and the Pacific.

If governments summon the will to earmark 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) of Official Development Assistance (ODA), Ms. Bellamy said, the additional proceeds would more than cover the additional \$80 billion over 10 years that the U.N. estimates is required to eliminate the worst aspects of global poverty.

The executive director said that the tailspin in aid levels is a direct challenge to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which speaks to be plight of the world's poorest children, and to the work of the United Nations generally — including Secretary-General Kofi Annan's ongoing effort to reform the U.N. system.

"Without adequate and predictable flows of development aid," Ms.

Bellamy said, "the United Nations can neither institute reform, nor meet the mandates laid down by member states, especially those for the elimination of poverty and the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable economic growth and human development."

"Private investment and financing are absolutely vital if the poorest countries are to emerge from poverty," the UNICEF chief said, "yet they cannot attract the private sector without Official Development Assistance. ODA not only helps these countries weather painful economic reforms, but enables them to create the social and economic infrastructure that is vital to development."

According to the OECD report, made public on June 19, average Official Development Assistance fell to 0.25 per cent of combined GNP compared to 0.27 per cent in 1995.

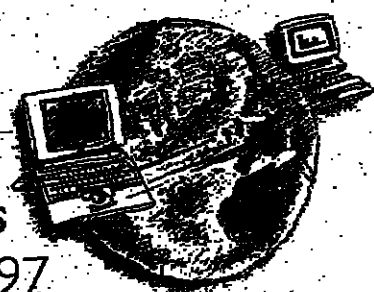
These are the lowest ODA/GNP ratios recorded in the nearly 30 years since the U.N. set a global aid target of 0.7 per cent of GNP.

In 1996, only four countries met or exceeded the 0.7 per cent target: Denmark (1.04 per cent), the Netherlands (0.83 per cent), Norway (0.85 per cent) and Sweden (0.82 per cent).

The OECD report noted that while average ODA fell in 1996, private flows to developing countries grew by nearly \$80 billion to \$234 billion, mostly because of a steep rise in bond lending. However, most of this private-sector money went to a handful of developing countries with rapidly growing economies. The poorest countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa, saw only negligible amounts.

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Palestinians formulating long-term plan to reduce dependence on Israel

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A senior Palestinian official Monday said the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is formulating a long-term plan to reduce the dependency of the Palestinian economy on Israel.

The governor of the Palestinian Monetary Authority (PMA), Fou'ad Bseiso, said the plan follows the campaign announced Sunday by a PNA official to boycott Israeli-made goods as a protest against Israel's three-week long closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and as a strategy towards self-reliance.

Dr. Bseiso said that plan would be implemented gradually and would involve encouraging maximum use of "available resources" and maintaining a strict policy in all PNA departments in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

According to Dr. Bseiso, "the Palestinian private and public institutions are working on creating a comprehensive plan to deal with the continuous Israeli closures of the Palestinian territories."

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Bseiso who was in Amman for a short visit, said 1996 figures indicated that 90 per cent of the Palestinian imports come from Israel, with a total value of \$1.3 billion. The PNA foreign

imports, including those from Israel, totalled \$1.5 billion in the same year, while Palestinian's exports to Israel totalled \$278 million in 1996.

"Our objective now is not a secret. We want to reduce our dependency on Israeli-made goods," he said.

"This will have a very negative impact on the Israeli economy because the Palestinian market is considered the second largest market for Israel after the U.S.," Dr. Bseiso said.

Dr. Bseiso's comments came amid continuous Israeli closures of the Palestinian territories following the July 30 double suicide bombing in Jerusalem, which killed 14 Israelis and injured 150.

Palestinian figures indicated that in 1996, under Israeli government order, the Palestinian territories were closed 118 days compared with 98 days in 1995, 77 in 1994 and 43 days in the first eight months of this year.

"The Israeli measures are disastrous on the Palestinian economy," said Dr. Bseiso. "They aim at killing the PNA's endeavour to rebuild the infrastructure of the Palestinian economy."

The Palestinian official said the total loss to the economy from the closures amounted to \$167.2 million since the siege was imposed — that is \$8.8 million a day. The loss incurred because

of Israeli decision to ban more than 50,000 Palestinian workers to go to their jobs in Israel is estimated at \$2 million a day.

Dr. Bseiso added that the daily loss to the agriculture sector is estimated at \$2 million, the industrial sector \$1.8 million, transportation sector \$1 million and trade \$2 million.

The Palestinian official said that the PMA has adopted several measures to avoid any monetary problems for the 20 Palestinian and foreign banks represented in the PNA, with a total of 78 branches.

Among the problems that were expected is the decrease of the liquidity in these banks, the inability of the Palestinian banks to move from one city to another, and the irregularity of cheques availability at the clearance houses.

He added that the PMA has requested that the Central Bank of Israel interfere to ease these problems, in line with the monetary agreements signed between the two sides.

Dr. Bseiso said that the newly-established Palestinian Stock Market in the West Bank town of Nablus has been negatively affected because of the closures.

To illustrate, he said that the total number of stocks that changed hands in the bourse on Aug. 10 reached 4,431 shares with a total value of JD14,953 compared with 140,970 shares, worth JD226,368 on Aug.

6. Dr. Bseiso said "the general performance of the bourse will continue to retreat if the closure continues."

"The Israeli measures are creating a polluted atmosphere for investment in the Palestinian territories. No foreign investor will dare to invest in such a climate," Dr. Bseiso said.

He said the Israeli decision to freeze the payment of \$50 million, which were earned from custom duties and taxes, to the PNA has crippled the cash-strapped Palestinian authority and has held up salaries for civil and military employees in the self-rule areas.

According to the Palestinian official, the PNA should receive \$513 million from Israel annually, which constitute 63 per cent of the 1997 annual budget revenues.

Dr. Bseiso said the PNA should pay \$42 million as salaries to these employees this month.

The official said the PNA might borrow from Palestinian and foreign banks to pay for the salaries adding that the "borrowing will not be a problem for the short run, but it will be a great problem if the closure continues."

"The siege is a financial disaster and will harm the peace process," Dr. Bseiso said. "Israel has to refrain from this policy and implement what has been agreed upon with the Palestinians."

Currency crisis in South East Asia highlights lack of financial reforms

SINGAPORE (AFP) —

South East Asia's currency turmoil has exposed the lack of financial reforms in the region to cope with rapid economic growth and capital flows, economists have said.

They also warned that a tendency to blame outsiders for the crisis, triggered by an effective devaluation of the Thai baht on July 2, could lead to a dilution of financial sector reforms which could aggravate economic problems.

Ulrich Hiemenz, director of the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), said large capital inflows that fuelled the region's economic boom could not be sustained if they were not backed up by financial sector reforms.

"Therefore, it is not surprising that the IMF (International Monetary Fund) position is that if the banking sector is not up to the mark, one should be cautious about capital flows," he told the "1997 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) roundtable" conference.

Mr. Hiemenz said that South East Asia's financial services, being part of the larger services sector, needed a boost through reforms to cope with the explosive growth in manufacturing derived from foreign direct investments. "You can't keep one window open and the others shut," he said.

Wendy Dobson, director of the University of Toronto's Centre for International Business, said there was concern

over economies "turning inward" because of the currency turmoil.

"There needs to be understanding that turning inward and stopping capital inflows and foreign direct investment is not a solution at all. Rather, it is to look to the framework of existing policies," she said.

Ms. Dobson said monetary supervision should be beefed up to ensure that nations had the economic tools to cope with explosive growth.

"Often the framework is there but it is not enforced and so supervisors don't look at asset quality, don't look at loan portfolios with a very hard head and say, maybe, there is too much real estate lending and we should cap that," she said.

Ms. Dobson also criticised

those who blamed outside forces for the currency turmoil whose casualties have included the Philippine peso, the Malaysian ringgit, the Indonesian rupiah and the Singapore dollar besides the baht.

Foreign ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) who met in Kuala Lumpur last month, expressed concern over speculative attacks on their currencies, which have dipped against the U.S. dollar.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad singled out Hungarian-born billionaire financier George Soros for the turmoil, saying he used his huge finances to bet on the U.S. dollar against the regional currencies.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	FRF	ITL	ESP
US Dollar	1.0000	1.6215	0.6208	1.5090	117.68	1.3686	1778.70	2.0608	1.3585
DE Mark	0.6190	1.0000	0.6563	1.5436	163.26	1.9364	2336.23	2.7063	1.6362
GB Sterling	1.6108	2.3551	1.0000	2.4307	189.83	2.2368	2884.80	3.3028	2.0612
CH Franc	0.6627	1.20.64	0.4109	1.0000	77.97	0.9192	1177.95	138.85	0.9632
JP Yen	0.0085	1.5465	0.5269	1.2818	1.0000	1.1790	15.11	174.13	0.2093
CA Dollar	0.7201	1.3112	0.4468	1.0868	1.18	1.0000	1280.76	147.64	0.4169
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0230	0.3485	0.9848	1514.00	0.7798	11.52	1.0000	0.2250
NL Guilder	0.4678	0.8875	0.3025	0.7351	57.35	0.6769	867.22	100.00	0.3610
FR Franc	0.1630	0.2958	0.1011	0.2458	19.16	0.2262	33.41	33.4100	0.1630

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	YEM	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7080	3.7505	0.3770	3.6400	0.3044	3.6726	1539.00	3.3690
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	1.0000	5.2973	0.5325	5.1412	0.4299	5.1873	2173.73	4.7676
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1888	1.0000	0.1005	0.97	0.0811	0.98	410.35	0.9034
Bahrain Dinar	2.55	1.8779	9.9477	1.0000	9.85	0.8073	9.74	4062.01	8.9905
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	1.0000	0.8036	1.01	422.80	0.9342
Kuwait Dinar	3.2857	2.3263	12.3230	1.2388	11.96	1.0000	12.07	5056.68	0.9312
Emirate Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0212	1.0227	0.9911	0.8829	1.00	419.05	0.9230
Lebanese 1000	0.65	0.4600	2.4370	0.2450	2.3652	0.1978	2.3864	1000.00	2.2025
Egyptian	0.2950	0.2089	1.1055	0.1112	1.0739	0.0898	1.0635	454.03	1.0000

Energy		Oil	Gas
Brent	18.92	19.11	
WTI	19.79	20.05	
Bonny	18.92	19.11	
Dubai	17.65	17.58	
UL Gas	214.00	0.00	

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	YEM	EGP
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.1888	1.0000	0.1005	0.97	0.0811	0.98	410.35	0.9034
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.1928	1.0212	1.0227	0.9911	0.8829	1.00	419.05	0.9230
KW Dinar	3.2857	2.3263	12.3230	1.2388	11.96	1.0000	12.07	5056.68	0.9312
BH Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	1.0000	0.8036	1.01	422.80	0.9342
CY Pound	1.8585	1.3385	1.1546	2.8086	216.832				

Metal Prices		Gold	Silver	Platinum	Al (3 Months)	Cu (3 Months)	Zinc (3 Months)	Lead (3 Months)	Ni (3 Months)
Gold (oz's)	322.8	323.3							
Silver (oz's)	4.48	4.51							
Platinum (oz's)	416	419							
Al (3 Months)	1675	1680							
Cu (3 Months)	2160	2165							
Zinc (3 Months)	1491	1493							
Lead (3 Months)	610	611							
Ni (3 Months)	6690	6695							

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
Period	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY	CHF	FRF	ITL	ESP	EGP
1 Month	5.50	5.58	5.88	5.75	5.84				
3 Months	6.94	7.12	7.12	7.30	7.37				
6 Months	8.50	8.43	8.45	8.62	8.51				
1 Year	10.50	10.38	10.38	10.55	10.44				
2 Year	12.50	12.33	12.34	12.51	12.40				
3 Year	14.50	14.31	14.31	14.48	14.37				
4 Year	16.50	16.31	16.31	16.48	16.37				
5 Year	18.50	18.31	18.31	18.48	18.37				

Main Equity Indices									
Index	Value	Change	Value	Change	Value	Change	Value	Change	Value
New York	DOW JONES	7691.41	-3.25	-0.04	7732.98	7690.02	7694.86		
New York	S&P 500	899.85	-0.96	-0.11	904.07	897.29	900.81		
London	FT-SE 100	4835.1	-30.7	-0.63	4865.8	4779.3	4865.8		
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	19041.1	-284.93	-1.47	19213.1	18835.5	19326		
Paris	CAC 40	2870.13	-51.71	-1.77	2884.89	2822.79	2921.84		
Frankfurt	DAX	4078.5	-74.28	-1.79	4078.5	3976.67	4152.86		

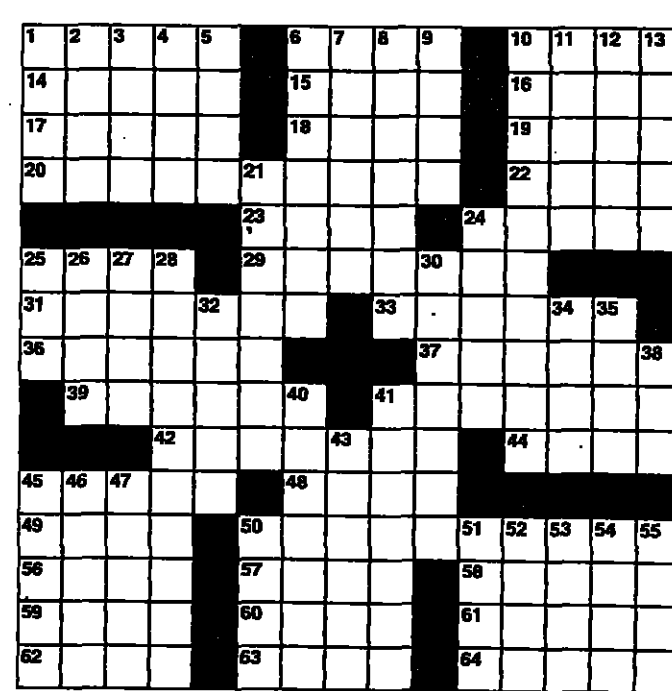
Energy		Commodity	Price	Delivery
Coffee (c/lb)	179	Spot		
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1541	Spot		
Sugar (\$/ton)	348.2	Spot		
Wheat (\$/ton)	145	Spot		
Soya (c/lb)	22.37	Spot		
Tea (slg/kg)	165	Spot		
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot		
Rice (\$/ton)	460	Spot		

JOD Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY	CHF	FRF	ITL	ESP	EGP
US Dollar	0.708	0.710							
GB Sterling	1.1412	1.1469							
DE Mark	0.3904	0.3924							
CH Franc	0.4712	0.4738							
FR Franc	0.1158	0.1164							
JP Yen	0.8035	0.8065							
NL Guilder	0.3465	0.3482							
IT Lira	0.3994	0.4014							

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS
1 Oscar-winning director
6 "The Good Queen"
10 In boots
14 Crazy as —
15 Use abusive language
16 Architect Saarinen
17 Raves about
18 Ratio words
19 Restaurant item
20 Frost poem
22 Bargain-hunter's delight
23 Margarine
24 Many a time
25 Effort
29 Final goals
31 Floor mats used in Japan
33 Feels remorse
36 Author Hilaire
37 Penetrate
39 "— of the Field"
41 Incomplete
42 Central Caucasians
44 "Grand Ole —"
45 Nautical term
48 Bryophyte
49 Feudal subject
50 Entertainers in a sideshow
56 Mohammedan magistrate
57 Dill, of yore
58 Put some pep into
59 Redolence
60 Scarlett's place
61 Kin of the giraffe
62 Radial, in London
63 God of love
64 Wine type



by Bernice Gordon

Puzzle solved:

POTS	SNIP	HELOT
AREA	ESAU	ALIKE
ICE	CREAM	PARLORS
LANKA	BANDANA	S
HAM	DEBT	SHALOM
AMEN	RBIS	INUSE
WATERMELON	PATCH	
KNAVE	DEAD	SEAT
SALADS	DRAM	SRA
OILWELLS	KABOB	
STEAM	LOCOMOTIVE	
HEAVE	YARE	EDEN
ASKED	DRAG	RENT

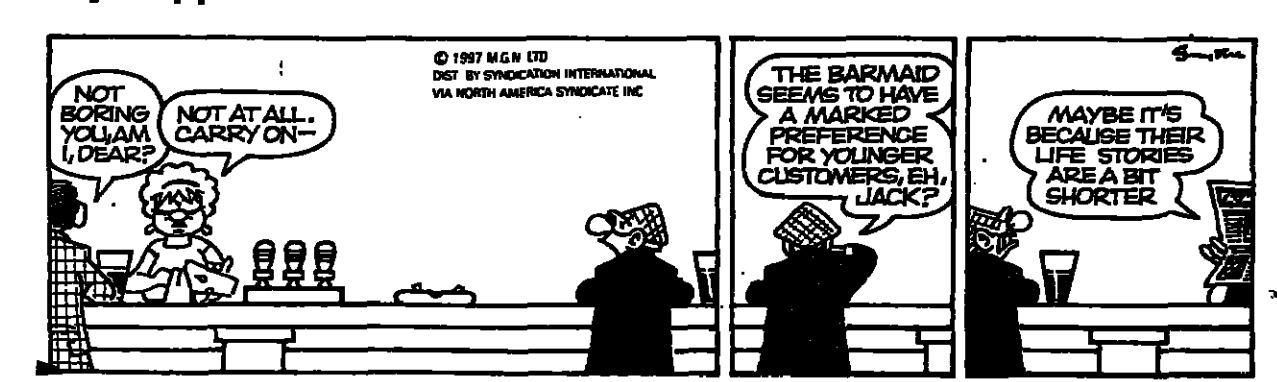
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- DOWN
1 Young elephant
2 Mountain range in Kirghiz
3 Serve tea
4 Traveled
5 Handle
6 Takes offense
7 Less strenuous
8 "Roseanne" and "Ellen"
9 Fruit of the blackthorn
10 Torches
11 City on the Hari Rud
12 Church vestment
13 Senior member
21 Spots
24 Walking — (elated)
25 Theologian's degree
26 Weight in Asia
27 Leader of the Huns
28 Go-getter
30 Deadlock
32 A bit dewy
34 Cause to stumble
35 Leave signs of damage
38 English cathedral
40 Graduate school group
41 Cash in Santander
43 Foe of the corrida bull
45 Scarf
46 Like some eyes
47 Intensity
50 Lot
51 Leaning
52 "Kon—"
53 Designer — Pione
54 A used car, sometimes
55 Agitated state

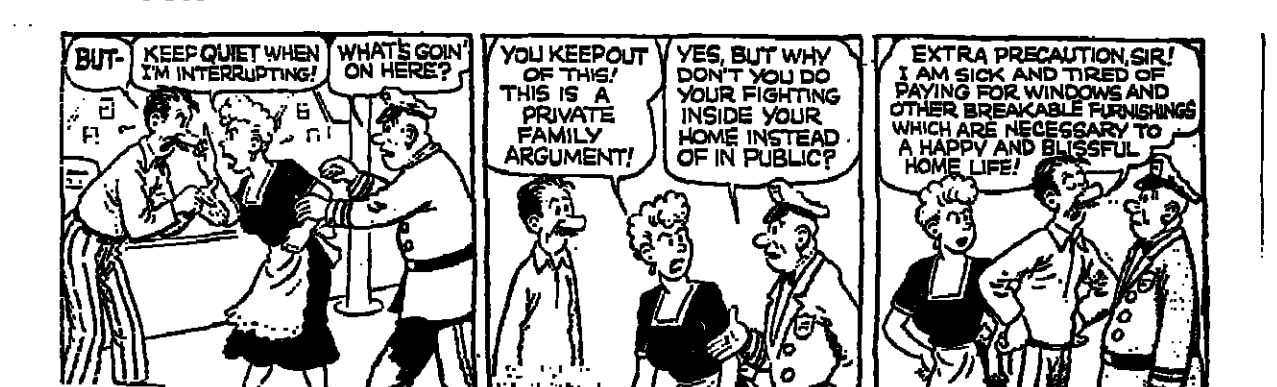
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE
FORECAST FOR
TUESDAY, AUGUST
19, 1997
By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Forget day-dreaming today, labour on practical duties and listen carefully to the ideas of a helpful fellow associate. Drive with utmost care while on the highway later this evening, thereby you can avoid any disagreements. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Keep the faith in someone who has done you wrong. Start planning for a brief, however, important business trip. Later this evening will be a good time for you and some close friends to participate in recreational activities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Follow up on neglected family ties today which you have not been in contact for some time. They might be helpful in an emergency. Keep close control of stress and don't allow it overwhelm your life. Get lots of sleep tonight.

High prices presage era of food scarcity

WASHINGTON (R) — The grain price increases of the mid-1990s suggest the world is moving into an era of food scarcity, the think tank World Watch Institute said on Saturday in a report that cited hurdles to boosting food output.

"All the key food security indicators signal a shift from surplus to scarcity," said the report.

In the report and in an interview, institute president, Lester Brown said food-importing nations should ponder how to ensure there is enough food for their citizens without relying on outside sources.

"It's the risk of being grain-dependent," Mr. Brown said.

The nations of East Asia, Northern Africa and the Middle East import at least half of their grain. There is a limited number of large-volume grain exporters — Argentina, Australia, Canada, the European Union and the United States.

"Food scarcity may provide the environmental wake-up call the world has long needed," said the report entitled "The Agricultural Link."

"Rising food prices may indicate the urgency of reversing the trends of environmental degradation before resulting political instability reaches the point where economic progress is no longer possible," it said.

World corn and wheat prices reached record levels in early 1995 when short crops and high demand sharply reduced the size of global stockpiles. Prices have retreated somewhat.

Even with the forecast large crops this year, the world will see the third year in a row when stockpiles equal less than 60 days of use, "well below the 70-day minimum needed to cushion even one poor harvest," the report said.

"It means regardless of what happens ... we're going to be close to the edge," Mr. Brown said.

The report listed several possible constraints on

expansion of food production — urban demands for water now used for irrigation, land lost to erosion and urban sprawl, and stagnant yields — to suggest food would be the first area where economic demands would collide with environmental limits.

It may be time, the report said, to reconsider use of land for non-essential crops. An end to tobacco cultivation would free 12.5 million acres enough to grow 15 million metric tonnes of grain. In the event of a world food emergency, a "meat tax" on consumption of livestock products would mean more grain for direct human consumption.

Qatari bourse surges ahead on high demand

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Qatar's burgeoning bourse is surging ahead as more investors join the market and most trading institutions report strong performances, bourse officials have said.

Two months after the Doha Securities Market (DSM) was inaugurated, the market capitalisation of its 17 listed banks and companies has jumped by more than 40 per cent and the index has gained around 16 points.

"The market is very active compared to share-dealing before it started operation," DSM's acting manager, Ghunem Al Hamadi, told AFP.

"The establishment of

the bourse has boosted the confidence of investors and this has combined with good performance of trading companies to keep the market busy. We expect it to get busier after the summer holidays," he said.

From around six billion riyals (\$1.64 billion) before the bourse was launched on May 26, the capitalisation of the listed institutions soared to nearly \$5 billion riyals (\$2.33 billion).

The index climbed to 146 points this week from 130 two months ago while turnover, the value of traded shares, totalled around 48 million riyals (\$13.1 million) during June and

July, bourse figures showed.

"This is a high figure considering the usually quiet summer months. There is no doubt it will be sharply higher later this year," Mr. Hamadi said.

Qatar opened the formal exchange in a bid to attract investment as part of reforms launched by Emir Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani.

Share dealing had been conducted through banks and brokers and Qatar had one of the lowest levels of turnover in the region because of investor reluctance in the absence of a floor and information on corporate results.

Trading remains confined to Qataris but bourse officials say there are plans to join Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in setting up mutual funds which will give access to foreign investors.

"A law governing such funds has been enacted. We expect it to be enforced early next year and such funds could then materialise," Mr. Hamadi said.

He said mutual funds

would activate the market by boosting share prices and attract the savings of the large foreign community in the Gulf country.

Asked whether foreigners would be allowed to own shares in the listed companies, he said: "There are plans to open up the market for expatriates. The mutual funds are just a beginning. We believe in step by step."

Mr. Hamadi said DSM has approved an application from a local company to be listed next week and three other firms will join the bourse in the next three months.

Qatar, the third biggest gas power in the world, is the fourth Gulf Cooperation Council state to have an official exchange.

Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman already have floors while the UAE also intends to set up such a project.

In Saudi Arabia, share dealing is conducted through the most advanced bank network in the Middle East. It accounts for nearly half the total Arab capitalisation.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Amman ranks the fifth highest most expensive city in Africa and the Mideast

AMMAN IS the fifth most expensive city in the Africa and Middle East region, a survey conducted by the Resources Corporate Group shows. Tel Aviv ranked first and was followed by Cairo, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and then Amman. On a list of 145 cities surveyed around the world, Amman was in the 33rd place whereas Tel Aviv was in the 21st place and Cairo in the 30th.

According to the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report for the year 1997, the ranking of the Kingdom dropped from the 70th rank to the 84th place in the field of human development. The report covered 174 countries around the globe. The index for poverty showed Jordan in the eighth rank among the world developing countries.

A government official said recently that there is always a black out on actual figures and facts. He pointed out that the government calculates the average rate of inflation on the basis of a basket consisting of 600 basic and non-essential products when such a basket should contain only between 40 to 48 products. He explained that prices of basic commodities rise quickly whereas prices of non-essential goods stay unchanged or might even decline slightly.

"The official emphasised the importance of reconsidering the method of calculating inflation by tracing the prices of around 48 basic products which are in heavy demand, as such, "we will find out that the rate of inflation is much higher than the announced figures."

He revealed that a recent study has showed that the rate of unemployment in the Kingdom exceeds 25 per cent and is not 14 per cent as publicly announced.

Furthermore, he added, the actual rate of poverty in Jordan is 32 per cent and not 20 per cent because the calculation should not measure the number of poor families to the total number of families as some families have an average of more than nine members compared to others where the average number of members in the family is less than six.

Noting that the rise in prices and inflation was not met by an adequate increase in incomes, the official source indicated that civil servants earn about JD158 per month and that such an income has not improved for the past three years.

"If compared to the wages of 1990, the monthly salary has now declined to about JD96 relative to the increase in prices," he concluded (Al Dustour).

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK LISTED - JORDANIAN											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 18/08/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADING	VALUED TRADED	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
298.000	219.000	ARAB BANK	13.3	1.38	1	20	5780	289.00	289.00	-	
1.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	0.00	33	10987	21948	2.00	2.00	2.00	-	
1.210	.880	MID-EAST INV. BK.	59.8	0.00	2	500	458	.91	.91	-	
2.480	2.130	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.5	7.35	10	14600	33708	2.33	2.30	.03	
4.180	2.440	JOR. KUNAT BANK	11.3	0.00	18	10519	3.06	3.18	3.18	.12	
1.050	.760	JOR. GULF BANK	9.6	9.09	3	1000	765	.78	.77	.01	
4.050	3.480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.5	3.14	14	6613	25260	3.81	3.82	.01	
1.110	.750	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	9	0.00	4	418	530	1.27	1.28	.01	
1.440	.850	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	1	2000	1900	1.00	.95	.05	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 213.62	%CHG: +0.02	86	39467	100867					
2.230	1.590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	4.8	11.83	1	200	338	1.66	1.69	.03	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 114.20	%CHG: +0.16	1	200	338					
1.820	1.500	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.1	5.99	32	26436	43968	1.67	1.67	-	
1.700	1.320	TRIST. ELECTRICITY	10.7	6.42	18	12693	22710	1.70	1.78	.08	
1.550	.930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	9	4444	5995	1.37	1.35	.02	
1.010	.820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.8	6.52	1	100	92	.96	.92	.04	
3.720	2.890	ARAB TEL. INV. EXCH.	8.3	0.00	24	15901	49501	5.06	3.27	.11	
1.220	.930	ZARQA EDUCATION	9	0.00	8	24930	24607	.98	.99	.01	
2.230	1.630	UNITED CO.	8.4	6.21	1	50	89	1.77	1.77	-	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 110.60	%CHG: +0.52	93	84553	146961					
1.170	.930	ATTACHMENT	0.00	3	2500	2500	1.23	1.00	.03		
4.450	3.220	JOR. CONCRETE FACT.	26.7	2.77	31	14489	57418	3.97	3.97	-	
4.140	2.750	JOR. PROSPECT MINES	10.8	2.56	2	1500	5950	3.95	3.90	.05	
7.050	5.100	ARAB POTASH CO.	14.2	3.28	2	245	1490	6.10	6.10	-	
10.280	9.040	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.8	8.77	22	1144	11213	10.08	10.13	.05	
3.260	1.650	INDUSTRIAL COM-AGR.	9	0.00	8	2249	4069	1.80	1.82	.02	
4.250	3.040	ARAB PHARM. IND.	11.4	4.82	29	10404	43123	4.14	4.15	.01	
5.650	4.300	DAR ALDIA. DV. INV.	13.2	4.63	5	830	4479	5.44	5.40	.04	
3.850	2.400	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.7	10.33	4	1725	4147	2.40	2.40	.00	
.960	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.9	0.00	3	1250	588	.47	.47	-	
1.300	1.000	ARAB PAPER CORP. TRD.	31.8	0.00	2	5500	5720	1.04	1.04	-	
1.700	1.320	NATIONAL TEL. INV.	9	0.00	2	1000	520	.52	.52	-	
1.210	.510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	10	8350	4634	.55	.56	.01	
.980	.530	JOR. ROCHOCOL. IND.	9	0.00	2	1250	825	.66	.66	-	
3.000	2.130	NATL. CABLE WIRE MFG.	36.6	0.00	2	550	1242	2.28	2.28	-	
.920	.530	JOR. SULPHO-CHEM	9	0.00	6	4250	2640	.64	.62	.02	
1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.0	5.26	3	1050	1297	1.32	1.33	.01	
1.970	1.080	UNIT. ALUM. IND.	9	0.00	16	5000	7467	1.26	1.25	.01	
1.510	.990	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	13.0	10.31	30	11963	11554	.99	.97	.02	
1.620	1.300	NATL. CLOTHING	14.5	4.55	18	102175	157358	1.57	1.54	.03	
1.070	.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.8	0.00	6	2950	2537	.88	.88	-	
2.090	1.340	EL - SAY READY WEAR	52.1	0.00	5	647	960	1.50	1.48	.02	
1.230	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.2	0.00	10	4562	5197	1.14	1.14	-	
1.200	.860	UNION CH. & VED.	45.9	0.00	47	44845	44394	.96	1.01	.05	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 121.80	%CHG: -0.17	271	231427	381712					
GRAND TOTAL		INDEX: 163.97	%CHG: -0.02	451	355647	629877					
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 18/08/1997											
.630	.340	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	4	6500	2225	.34	.35	.01	
.650	.400	JOR. TRADE FAC.	11.2	0.00	9	21150	8582	.40	.42	.02	
1.550	1.070	ZARA FOR INVESTMENT	70.2	0.00	1	500	535	1.07	1.07	-	
.950	.540	JOR. FIN. INV. CO.	9	0.00	12	13600	7551	.55	.56	.01	
.840	.600	UNION INV. CO.	9	0.00	7	35049	7009	.70	.70	-	
.570	.370	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	19	30250	11949	.39	.40	.01	
.950	.720	AL-SHARQ INV. CO.	9	0.00	8	56200	47770	.85	.85	-	
.980	.610	AL-BALAD INV. CO.	68.1	0.00	4	34676	16523	.70	.71	.01	
.730	.510	ARAB FOOD & MFG.	9	0.00	10	5400	2864	.53	.53	-	
.570	.380	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	47.2	0.00	1	150	62	.41	.41	-	
.750	.400	NATL. ALUM. IND. MFG.	35.3	0.00	21	33350	15431	.46	.46	-	
.620	.710	JORDAN STEEL	35.3	6.41	10	9050	7110	.80	.78	.02	
.580	.430	ARAB ELECT. IND.	9	0.00	1	1000	500	.50	.50	-	
.730	.580	HIGHEST TENSILE 755	9	0.00	6	5000	3800	.62	.61	.01	
1.190	.860	UNION TOBACCO 755	9	0.00	19	13482	10305	.97	1.02	.05	
.670	.550	RABT PHARM. 855	9	0.00	8	13045	5871	.60	.60	-	
.570	.320	TRD. INV. CO.	9	0.00	9	6850	2319	.33	.34	.01	
.520	.240	I. TEXTILE MFG.	9	0.00	1	350	81	.24	.23	.01	
.760	.530	PEARL SAR. P. COM.	9	0.00	2	450	525	.53	.50	.03	
1.000	.730	NAT. ALUMINUM 755	9	0.00	38	104000	51360	.74	.75	.01	
.560	.590	MID-EAST COMPLEX	7.9	15.63	2	2000	1270	.64	.64	-	
GRAND TOTAL		202	395253	201340							

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



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JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

EEZSI

FRADT

YOWHLL

LOSTCY

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: FUNNY AWOKE PIRACY DEFAUNE

Answer: What the Olympic sprinter did when he retired - HE RAN FOR OFFICE

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Cameroon joins African qualifiers

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The African qualifiers for the 1998 World Cup ended on Sunday with Cameroon booking a place in France and fellow finalists Nigeria suffering a rare defeat.

North African giants Tunisia and Egypt went on scoring sprees at home and Ghana ended another disappointing campaign with a shock home loss to Sierra Leone.

Cameroon joined Nigeria, Tunisia, South Africa and Morocco as the African representatives at the quadrennial football showcase by defeating Zimbabwe 2-1 in Harare.

Japanese-based striker Patrick Mboma struck twice within 11 minutes early in the second half for the indomitable lions, who had lost on three previous visits to the Zimbabwean capital.

Bernard Tchoutang, who has been on trial with English First Division club Swindon town, was twice foiled by the woodwork before Edelbert Dinha grabbed a late consolation goal.

Nigeria surrendered a 13-match unbeaten record in World Cup qualifiers stretching

back to 1989 when Fode Camara scored the only goal midway through the second half in Guinea.

Egypt followed up their eight-goal rout of Ethiopia in the African Nations Cup last month by slamming five past Liberia in Alexandria with defender Samir Kamouna among the marksmen.

German-based midfielder Zoubir Beye was on target in each half as Tunisia triumphed 4-0 at home to Namibia in a match delayed 24 hours because the visitors arrived late.

Goals from Jamiru Amidu and Mohammed Kallon earned Sierra Leone a 2-0 victory over Ghana, second place behind Morocco in Group 5, and put the future of black stars Dutch coach Rinus Israel in doubt.

Paulo Jorge Da Silva gave Angola the lead in Togo on the stroke of half-time only for Tunisian-based striker Wadja Lantam to level 120 seconds into the second half.

Brolin in more trouble with Leeds

LEEDS (AFP) — Maverick Leeds striker Tomas Brolin is heading for a fresh confrontation with the English Premiership club after criticising manager George Graham over the weekend.

The Swedish international, whose career has gone into steep decline since moving from Parma nearly two years ago, accused Graham of ignoring him and trying to kick him out of the club.

The 27-year-old insisted he was told he had a chance to salvage his place in the Leeds side, despite walking out on the club last autumn and spending six months on loan to Serie A giants Parma.

Brolin eventually returned towards the end of pre-season and he says that, even though he worked hard in training, Graham has not given him a chance to prove his worth.

"After telling me I could save my career at Leeds and make a go of it this season, all they've done is try to kick me out," said Brolin.

"If George has a problem with me he could at least say something to my face. Instead, he has given me the silent treatment and any news about my future has come second or third hand. I'm not just hurt and angry. I'm confused."

Graham is now likely to step up his bid to try and sell him and recoup some money before the Bosman ruling takes effect and Brolin can leave on a free transfer.

Graham said the club will take disciplinary action against Brolin, confirming: "I have not read the full piece. All I know is what I have read on teletext. But the matter will be handled internally."

Johnson finishes fifth in London

LONDON (AFP) — World record-holder Michael Johnson suffered the ignominy of being beaten by three British runners in a rare 200 metres outing at the Crystal Palace International athletics meeting here on Sunday.

Veteran Doug Turner claimed an astonishing victory in 20.73 seconds as Johnson, who won the world 400m title in Athens earlier this month, trailed in a sad fifth in 20.87, over a second and a half down on his world record.

Briton Marcus Adam, who amazingly has beaten Johnson five times in his last nine races against the American, was second in 20.74 ahead of compatriot James Golding (20.80) and Latvian Sergei Insakov (20.85).

Johnson left the 9,000 fans feeling short-changed after being paid an estimated 60,000 pounds in appearance money.

The dual Olympic champion also pulled out of the 4x400m relay and hurried away from the stadium in south London with his manager Brad Hunt without offering any explanation.

"He looked to me that his heart just wasn't in it," said Turner of the American. "I think he was just running for the money and to keep the people happy."

Winner Turner is still in the throws of a battle with the British authorities over a positive drugs test.

Turner was banned by the Scottish Games Association



World record holder and Olympic champion Michael Johnson (C) of the United States sprints with British challengers Daniel Money (L) and Julian Golding towards the finish line in the 200 metre event during an exhibition athletics challenge at Crystal Palace. Johnson finished only in fifth place in a pedestrian time of 20.87, one-and-a-half seconds outside his world record time of 19.32 (Reuters photo)

for three months after testing positive for ephedrine at the annual professional meeting in Edinburgh over the New Year.

But he competed at the world indoor championships in Paris last March while still under that suspension because the SGA did not inform the British Athletic Federation of the ban.

Turner, who is due to meet BAF sometime in the future to sort out the dispute, said: "I don't know how I ended up with the drug. I am still trying to work that out."

"I can't even run outside

the country because the IAAF want to find out from the BAF what happened. I'm very angry that it's still going on."

Though there was defeat for one Olympic champion, the other on view — Canada's world record holder Donovan Bailey — recorded a comfortable victory in the 100m.

Bailey, who lost his world crown in Athens earlier this month and struggled in Zurich last Wednesday, won in 10.13secs from his international select teammate Vince Henderson of the United States (10.22).

Briton Iwan Thomas, another returning to the track for the first time since Athens, comfortably won the 400m.

Thomas, whose brave bid for world championship glory ended with defeat at the hands of Johnson and no medal, won in 44.69 from American Antonio Pettigrew (44.94) javelin thrower Steve Buckley was beaten by Marius Corbett, who had denied him the gold at the world championships. His longest throw of 87.14 being 32cm down on the South African.

Thomas, whose brave bid for world championship glory ended with defeat at the hands of Johnson and no medal, won in 44.69 from American Antonio Pettigrew (44.94) javelin thrower Steve Buckley was beaten by Marius Corbett, who had denied him the gold at the world championships. His longest throw of 87.14 being 32cm down on the South African.

Sydney to host 1999 Pan Pacific Championships

SYDNEY (AFP) — Sydney, site of the 2000 Olympic Games, was Monday confirmed as the venue for the 1999 Pan Pacific Swimming Championships and the next three Australian World Cup swimming legs.

New South Wales Sports Minister Gabrielle Harrison announced here that all of the events will be staged in the new Sydney International Aquatic Centre at Homebush, west of the city, which would be the venue for the 2000 Olympic swimming competition.

Australia is also hosting the next World Swimming Championships in Perth in January.

"Over the next three years, we will get a taste of what the Olympics will bring us with all of the world's best

swimmers in action against our own tremendous home-grown talent," Harrison said at the announcement.

"It will also present an opportunity for the venue operators and swimming officials to fine-tune procedures well before the Olympic Games."

The Pan Pacific Championships, which draws swimmers from Pacific rim nations, was last staged at Fukuoka in Japan this month.

The next World Cup Australian leg is scheduled here next January after the Perth World Championships.

Juventus send Inter poison dart over Ronaldo

MILAN (AFP) — Juventus boss Giovanni Agnelli has fired a poison dart at Inter Milan, warning them that Ronaldo will be no guarantee of success this season.

Agnelli, whose family control the Fiat car empire and who also own Juventus, said of the 20-year-old Brazilian: "He could be useful, but he won't be enough."

The club's honorary president also doubted reports

that Inter stand to earn around \$200 million from Ronaldo over the next nine years of his contract.

"It's difficult to always to do great business over footballers and I'm not convinced that Ronaldo will be a great piece of business," he said. "I hope for Inter's sake that he is, but I'm not so sure about it."

"He's a very good player, the best player around at the moment, but just because

you've got him in your team it doesn't mean to say that you're going to win everything."

Inter president Massimo Moratti refused to rise to the bait.

"It seems that he wishes Inter and Ronaldo well, and that's a nice, friendly thing to do," said the oil magnate. "I hope he's sincere about it."

"I took a gamble by buying Ronaldo, and I hope it will be a winner. For the moment, I'm happy."

Agnelli also tried to dampen down AC Milan's optimism that coach Fabio Capello has returned to take the club back to the top — starting with Tuesday night's Berlusconi trophy match here against Juventus.

"The best coach in the world is our Marcello Lippi. Fabio Capello was a good player at Juventus and has become a good coach."

But we've got the best coach in the world and we're keeping him."

Agnelli seized on the numerous changes that have been made in Milan's squad, with 11 new signings in the wake of their dismal season.

"Milan have the squad with the most star players overall," he said, before adding: "But having star players is one thing and having the most well-organised team is another. And that takes time."

Kafelnikov wins second title of year

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AFP) — Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov won his second title of 1997 and rose to third in the ATP rankings by beating eighth seed Pat Rafter 7-6 (7/4), 6-4, in the international final Sunday.

Top seed Kafelnikov won \$150,000 by downing the Australian here at the \$1 million event, a hardcourt tuneup for the U.S. Open that begins August 25 in New York.

Rafter, who has lost all four of his ATP finals this year, settled for a consolation check of \$80,000 and the knowledge that his run lifted him to a career high of 14th in the world.

Rafter became the ATP's highest-ranked Australian, passing Mark Philippoussis.

Playing in hot but less humid conditions than those made his semi-final an ordeal, Kafelnikov held a slight edge through the first set, with Rafter having to save two break points in the opening game and another at 3-3.

After taking the tie-breaker, Kafelnikov held off two break points to hold for 1-0 in the second set, and broke for 2-0 with two fine service returns and then a double-fault from Rafter.

Rafter, who drew the major support from an appreciative crowd for his



Yevgeny Kafelnikov

gallant running and a couple of close calls that went against him, grabbed a life-

line by breaking Kafelnikov for the only time as the Russian served for the

match at 5-3.

Kafelnikov remained calm and gained his first match point in the next game when Rafter netted a forehand volley. Rafter fired his 10th ace to hold off defeat, but a backhand pass from Kafelnikov and a long backhand from Rafter ended the 90-minute contest.

"I wanted to get on top of my game this week and be ready for the U.S. Open, and it couldn't be any better than this," said Kafelnikov, who knew he would have many chances to earn points by passing Rafter. That was especially crucial in the final game.

"He thought he would have no chance on the baseline against me and I think he was right, but fortunately I was able to pass him. If it had got to 5-5, you don't know what could happen."

Rafter, who had contested three consecutive night matches, admitted he was knocked back by the heat.

"It was very hot and I hadn't played in those conditions all week," he said. "It was difficult for the game I have. But there are a lot of positives to take out of the week. I had lots of matches and it's been good for my confidence."

Bolton sign Beardsley

BOLTON (AFP) — Bolton Wanderers signed Peter Beardsley from Newcastle in a 450,000 pounds (\$700,000) switch on Monday — then claimed they are close to capturing South African star Mark Fish.

The 36-year-old Newcastle striker was blocked from making the move just two weeks ago by the Newcastle board following the sale of Les Ferdinand to Spurs and Alan Shearer's injury.

But with the recent arrival of John Barnes and Ian Rush at Newcastle, Bolton boss Colin Todd has netted the former England striker — to a medical — to end his summer-long striker search.

Meanwhile, Wanderers have agreed personal terms with two million pound rated (about 3.2 million pounds) Lazio central defender Mark Fish.

South African international Fish was a target for Manchester United several seasons ago but refused a trial with the Premiership champions.

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♠ A Q J 8 5
♥ 5
♦ A Q 8 4
♣ K J 3

WEST
♠ K 10 9
♥ 9 8 7
♦ 10 9 8 2
♣ 9 8 3

EAST
♠ 7 6 4 3
♥ A K Q 10 8
♦ K
♣ 10 8 7

SOUTH
♠ 2
♥ 7 4 3 2
♦ 3 7 6 5
♣ A Q 8 4

The bidding:
NORTH SOUTH WEST NORTH
10 1NT Pass 20
Pass 2♠ Pass 3♠
Pass 3NT Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♣

Before embarking on the play as declarer, count your tricks. You will be surprised how often it will point the way to the winning line. This hand is from the recent Fall North American Championships in Atlanta.

Since a balancing double can be made on no more than 10-11 points, North, cue-bid on the second round

to show power. When no spade fit could be found, North accepted three no trump as the final contract.

West led the nine of hearts. East took the ace, king and queen of the suit (it could have been better to duck the first trick) and led another to set up a long heart.

Declarer, Chip Martel of Davis, Calif., could count only six tricks outside of diamonds. It was highly unlikely that the spade suit would produce three more without East gaining the lead, although it was possible that West held one king. If it was the king of diamonds, all was well, since the suit could be manipulated to produce three tricks.

As the cards lay, declarer noticed that, since only three diamond tricks were needed, the hand could be guaranteed on any 3-2 split if West held the king, or on a 4-1 break if East held a singleton K, 10 or 9. South simply led a diamond to the ace, summing his majesty, and claimed nine tricks.

Had the singleton been the 10 or 9, declarer would continue with a diamond back to the jack. Later, the right of diamonds would be finessed for the fulfilling trick. Naturally, declarer would spurn the spade finesse no matter what.

TODAY AT

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PHILADELPHIA "2"

Jim Carrey ... in

LIAR LIAR

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238

PLAZA

THE SUBSTITUTE

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420

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Jonas Bjorkman

Bjorkman beats Moya in rain-delayed final

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Ninth-seeded Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden overcame the rain to beat fifth-seeded Carlos Moya of Spain 6-3, 7-6 (7-3) Sunday in the final of the RCA championships.

The victory was worth \$150,000 to Bjorkman, who was seeking to become the first player to win the singles and doubles titles at the Indianapolis tennis centre since it was converted from clay to hardcourts in 1988.

The start of the singles championship match was delayed about 90 minutes by rain and was halted for another 30 minutes in the second set by another shower.

"I felt really strong today. The other times I had a lot of problems," said the 25-year-old Swede, who had lost to Moya in their two previous matches.

Bjorkman had only two break points against him and won 79 per cent of his first serve points. He capitalised on his aggressive style to win 35 points in the 48 times he came to the net.

"I played really good from the baseline. I had a chance to move Carlos around, instead of him moving me around like last time," said Bjorkman, who won his second singles title in four tries.

Moya, winless in four trips to the finals this year — including a loss to Pete Sampras in this year's Australian Open — blamed the second rain delay for his loss. It

came after he scored his only service break of the match, giving him a 2-1 lead in the second set.

"I was starting to play better and better. It came at the worst time for me," Moya said. "I went into the lockerroom. ... That was the key." Bjorkman, who lost only one set in his six matches, broke Moya in the opening game of the match, then held all three of his service games and closed out the 33-minute set on a double fault by Moya.

Trailing 1-2 in the second set, Bjorkman broke Moya immediately after play resumed to tie the set and each held to force the tiebreaker. Bjorkman gained one mini-break in the tiebreaker to go up 2-1. Moya tied the set again by winning the next point on Bjorkman's serve and the score was tied 3-3 before the champion captured the next four points.

"I think he was really tired at the end. He started to make mistakes," Moya said. "but I didn't take chances. He went to the net (at 2-2) and made an overhead. I lost it. ... I made some stupid mistakes. I didn't win because of stupid mistakes."

Moya, ranked ninth by the ATP Tour heading into the tournament, earned \$80,000 as his match record for the year slipped to 42-20. Bjorkman, who will move into the top 20 in the rankings for the first time ever with the victory, moved to 45-18.

Dalglish hits out at 'dad's army' tag

NEWCASTLE (AFP) — Newcastle boss Kenny Dalglish is fuming at suggestions that his squad should now be dubbed "dad's army" or "Liverpool seniors" following the arrival of veterans John Barnes and Ian Rush.

His former Liverpool teammates from the 1980s join a squad which already includes the 35-year-old England full-back Stuart Pearce.

But Dalglish hit out at the sceptics, insisting ability, not age, was the decisive factor.

Introducing his new signings to the media, Dalglish said: "I don't see any problem. What is the difference between having a kid of 17 playing for us pre-season to these two lads who have still got it joining us? What does age matter if the ability is still there?"

"Surely the judgement must still be whether they can play their football at the highest level — I have no doubt about this."

"They still have huge amounts of ability and they are both still hungry to do well here, again I've no doubt about this."

Barnes himself has no doubt about his ability to play at the very highest level.

"I believe in my ability. I have never doubted it. In fact I still believe I could have played on at Liverpool and that I could make any other side that matter," said the 33-year-old former England winger.

Rush, 35, said he was delighted at the prospect of relaunching his career with the Magpies.

He said: "I have joined a very big club here. I am training better than ever and when I get up in the morning I look forward to my football more than I did when I was 25."

"I haven't come here for a ride. Naturally I want to try and fight for my place in the side but whatever happens I will be giving everything to the club and Kenny."

Seles chucks up 3rd Toronto title

TORONTO (AFP) — American Monica Seles clinched a third successive Canadian Open title when she defeated Anke Huber 6-2, 6-4 in the final of the \$926,250 WTA event here on Sunday.

Seles broke the serve of her German opponent twice in the opening set. In the second Huber recovered from 3-1 down to lead 4-3 before losing her serve twice more as Seles completed victory in 75 minutes.

For 23-year-old Seles it was a second consecutive victory following her win in Los Angeles last week and continued her excellent preparation for the U.S. Open later this month.

"This is my favourite tournament, that's for sure," said the world number three.

"I'm very glad that I did decide to come back and defend my title and I will come back next year too to try to keep the streak going. I wish I had a Grand Slam tournament here."



Monica Seles, of the United States, looks up as she serves during her final match at the Canadian Open (Reuters photo)

Huber, who has yet to beat Seles in eight meetings, admitted that once again Seles had proved too strong.

"I want to congratulate Monica for her great tournament — she was just a little bit better than me," Huber said.

Blue Jays beat Indians 10-5

CLEVELAND (AP) — Roger Clemens struck out 11 in his 19th victory as the Toronto Blue Jays snapped Cleveland's four-game winning streak with a 10-5 victory over the Indians in Major League baseball.

Clemens (19-4), who leads the majors in wins and is second in era, moved one victory away from his fourth 20-win season and first since 1990 as he bids for his fourth Cy Young Award.

It was Clemens' third straight double-digit strike-out game. 11th this season and 79th of his great career.

His era went from 1.66 to 1.78, still tops in the AL but second in the majors to Montreal's Pedro Martinez (1.70) with all his milestones. Clemens earned his first victory at Jacobs Field, where he came in 0-2 with a 7.01 era. He improved to 21-6 in his career against the Indians, his second-biggest victim after the Angels (25).

Clemens allowed four runs and six hits in seven innings, walking three.

Indians rookie Jarret Wright (3-2) took the loss. Red Sox 10, Twins 5: In Boston, Nomar Garciaparra extended his hitting streak to 20, tying Fred Lynn's team rookie record as Boston sent the Twins to their ninth consecutive loss.

Aaron Sele (12-9) allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings. He had a 11.25 era in his previous four starts.

Boston improved to 62-63 and moved within one game of .500 for the first time since May 7 (15-16). The Twins, swept in the four-game series, have lost 12 of 13 and are on their longest losing streak since a nine-game slide from June 15-23, 1993.

Bob Tewksbury (4-9), activated from the disabled list prior to the game, allowed six runs and nine hits in four innings. He had been sidelined since July 22 because of a strained right shoulder.

Tigers 8, Royals 4: In Detroit, Travis Fryman drove in four runs and Damian Easley drove in three as Detroit stopped a four-game losing streak.

Greg Keagle (1-2) won for the first time in nine career starts, allowing three runs and five hits in seven innings. Keagle struck out seven and walked none.

Jose Rosado (8-9) was pounded for six runs and five hits in 2 1-3 innings, the shortest outing in 42 career starts. He is 1-6 in 11 starts since June 23.



Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Roger Clemens in action against the Cleveland Indians here at Jacobs Field. Clemens, who struck out 11 players in seven innings that he pitched, became the first pitcher in the American League to reach 19 wins. Blue Jays won, 10-5 (Reuters photo)

Yankees 8, Rangers 0: In New York, after David Cone removed himself in the second inning with a tight right shoulder, Ramiro Mendoza pitched six innings of two-hit relief and combined with Kenny Rogers on a three-hitter.

Mendoza (5-5), the loser in Saturday's game, combined with Rogers, who left his last start on Aug. 10 after three innings with a tight upper back. The left-hander struck out five in the final two innings.

Cone, who missed most of last season after surgery to repair an aneurysm in the same shoulder, threw 21 pitches in the first. He made several warm-up tosses before the second but stopped and walked into the Yankees' dugout.

A preliminary evaluation indicated muscle tightness and tendinitis in the shoulder, but no vascular abnormality relating to the right-hander's surgery.

Tim Lincecum went 3-for-5 with three RBIs and Paul O'Neill drove in three runs with a sacrifice fly and a two-run homer for the Yankees.

Bobby Witt (11-9) allowed 12 hits and all eight Yankees runs. Orioles 5, Angels 4, 10 Innings: In Baltimore, Lenny Webster singled in the winning run in the bottom of the 10th inning Sunday as Baltimore rallied to win its seventh straight extra-inning game.

Aaron Ledesma hit his first major-league home run and Rafael Palmeiro had his 25th for the Orioles, who moved a season-high 33 games over .500 with their 15th win in 20 games.

Baltimore leads second-place New York by 4 games in the AL East.

Tim Salmon had three hits and an RBI and Rickey Henderson drove in two runs for Anaheim, which lost leads of 3-1 and 4-3 less than 24 hours after blowing a six-run cushion

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Lambert move to Celtic in doubt

GLASGOW (AFP) — Celtic's bid to sign Scotland star Paul Lambert from Borussia Dortmund was on the verge of collapse on Monday. The Glasgow Giants, desperate for reinforcements after a disastrous start to the season, were understood to have agreed a two million pounds (about \$3.2 million) fee for the midfielder. But Celtic general manager Jock Brown is now thought to have decided against a deal, while the player's agent Jim Melrose was clearly unimpressed by the offer. Melrose told the sun: "We're disappointed with the way business has been done. I don't know if Celtic were using this as a PR exercise." Lambert, who won a European Cup Winner's medal last season after Dortmund's surprise 3-1 victory over Juventus, is also in no rush to return home. Despite earlier reports that his wife was homesick, the Scotland international is keen to win further honours after a successful first year in Germany. He said: "European football is of the highest standard and I cannot see me leaving it. I have been learning all the time in Germany. We have a new Italian coach in Nevio Scala who has included me in all four games we have played this season so I assume I am in his plans."

Grimsby keeper set to face Germany

BELFAST (AFP) — Grimsby goalkeeper Aidan Davison has received a late call-up to the Northern Ireland squad for Wednesday's World Cup qualifying match against Germany. Davison, 29, who has two international caps, replaces Alan Fennis after the Nottingham Forest man became the second goalkeeper to pull out of Bryan Hamilton's squad in four days. Fennis, who has a back problem, had been in line to take over from first choice Tommy Wright of Manchester City, an earlier injury victim. Hamilton must now choose between Davison and veteran 19-year-old Roy Carroll for his last line of defence, with the Grimsby player likely to get the nod due to his greater experience.

AC Milan squad visit fan in hospital

PORTO POTENZA PICENA, Italy (AFP) — Andrea Carlioni, the teenage AC Milan fan who emerged from a coma after listening to taped messages from his favourite team, had a visit from them on Monday. Carlioni had been in the coma since a motorcycle accident on February 28. At his father's request, AC Milan sent a tape with messages from both players and club president Silvio Berlusconi. He came out of the coma last month. Mauro Tassotti, who has just ended a 17-year career with Milan to take over their youth squad, paid a visit to the rehabilitation clinic here accompanied by members of the youth team and club officials. Carlioni, 16, immediately recognised Tassotti and was able to exchange a few words with Milan's former star defender. The teenager, clearly moved by the occasion, also received two presents from his visitors — Franco Baresi's now legendary number six shirt and a ball signed by every member of the first team. When he has made a complete recovery, Berlusconi will organise a special celebration for Carlioni at the club's Milanello training ground near the Swiss border.

Sampras, Chang lead U.S. Davis Cup

WASHINGTON (AFP) — World No. 1 Pete Sampras and second-ranked Michael Chang will lead the United States against Australia in a Davis Cup semi-final tie here in September. U.S. Tennis Association officials said here Monday. Joining them on the U.S. team will be Alex O'Brien and former world number one Jim Courier. The competition will be September 19-21 on hard courts. Sampras last played in the Davis Cup in the 1993 final against Russia, where he won two singles matches and helped Todd Martin to win in doubles. Sampras has an 11-5 Davis Cup singles record. Chang, a member of the 1990 Davis Cup winners, is 6-2 in Davis Cup play. He won two singles matches against Mexico in last year's opening round in his most recent Davis Cup appearance.

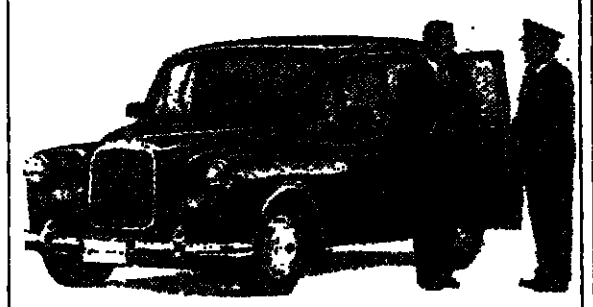
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Egypt's police kill 13 Islamists, arrest 100

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian police killed 13 Islamists and rounded up around 100 others in the biggest such operation for five years, the pro-government Al-Ahram reported in its Monday edition.

Police sources confirmed the report but provided no details of the action in the region of Minya, the main town in the Upper Nile region, which according to the pay took place over several days.

Among the dead, the newspaper said, were the "main leaders" of Egypt's principal Islamist group, Gamaa Islamiya, also killed were men held responsible for the massacre of nine Copts (Egyptian Christians) at the Saint-George Church in Minya last February, it said.

Those arrested also included the men responsible for an attack on tourists in Cairo in April last year in which 18 Greek holidaymakers died, Al-Ahram added.

Some of the Islamists are additionally suspected of involvement in several deadly attacks on policemen and banks in the Upper Nile region and of responsibility for three attacks on trains carrying tourists in the area. None of the tourists was killed.

Al-Ahram said security forces had found "a substantial quantity of weapons and munitions" during the operation, along with sketches of "targets" that the Islamists were allegedly preparing to attack. Among these were "senior officials, media groups, embassies, hotels and bridges."

The arrested men were

Armed group threatens more attacks after raids

CAIRO (AFP) — "Our brothers in Egypt's main armed Islamist group, the Gamaa Islamiya, on Monday warned of more anti-government attacks following the death of 13 militants and the arrest of 100 others in a major police raid."

"With the will of God we will pursue our jihad [holy war] against the enemies of God everywhere and we will uproot the roots of corruption and injustice," the Gamaa Islamiya said in an undated statement received here.

"Oh mujahideen [warriors] in the prison cells of the interior ministry don't give up hope... we will fight everywhere in defence of our mission against the enemies of Islam and Muslims," the statement said.

reportedly brought before a judge.

The best known of the slain Islamists was said to be Ismail Kedwani, nephew of Farid Kedwani, the main organiser of the Saint-George Church massacre who is still at liberty.

Earlier this month Egyptian authorities arrested 33 members of the banned Muslim Brotherhood for planning a recruitment drive at Alexandria university. It followed the arrest of 14 fugitive Islamists, including one sentenced to death in absentia for murder.

More than 1,200 people have been killed in the violent campaign launched by Islamists in March 1992 to overthrow Egypt's secular government.

Six of the founders of Gamaa Islamiya, which is based in the Minya region, appealed last month for an end to the violence but a headline group, the Jihad Tala'a Al Fateh (Vanguard of the Conquest) rejected the call.

However the organisation's activities have slackened off considerably in recent weeks.

Mir station loses computer system and orbit position

MOSCOW (AFP) — The main computer on the Russian space station Mir malfunctioned Monday, forcing the crew to shut down all electrical instruments to save power and plunging the ageing vessel into a new crisis.

An unexplained error in the computer made Mir lose its proper position as it spun around earth, meaning the station was no longer oriented towards the sun and its solar energy panels did not generate electricity, Mission Control Chief Vladimir Solovoyov told reporters.

The three-man crew — cosmonauts Anatoly Solovoyov and Pavel Vinogradov and NASA astronaut Michael Foale — shut down all electrical instruments, including the faulty onboard computer.

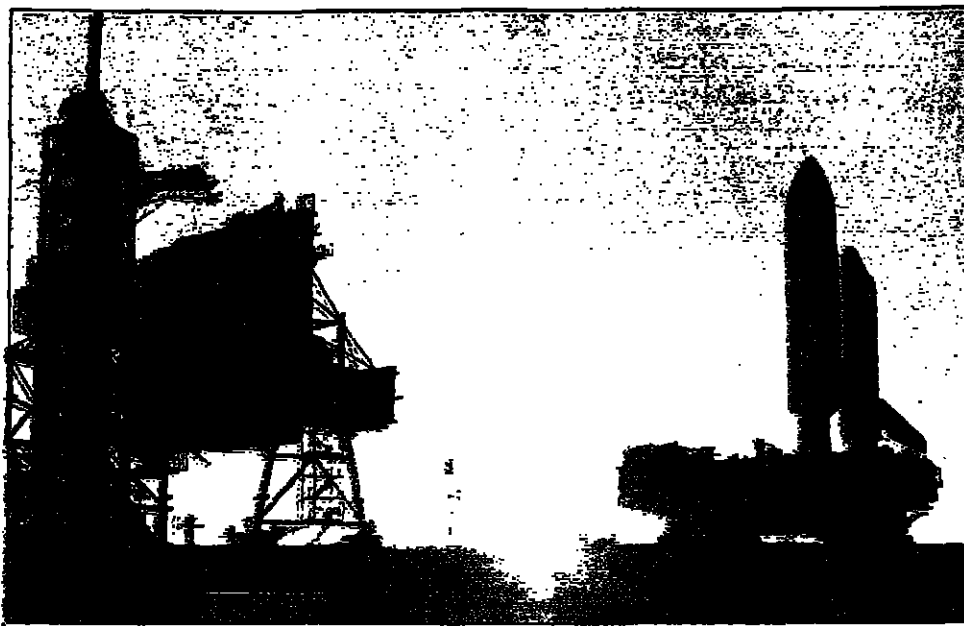
With the guidance system down, the 11-year-old, problem-plagued vessel went into an erratic movement as it spun around earth, Mr. Solovoyov said.

As a result, a space walk planned for Wednesday to repair damage from a collision between Mir and an unmanned progress cargo vessel in June will be put off by "two or three days," he said.

"Ground control is going to carry out an analysis and the cosmonauts are going to carry out repairs to the computer," he said.

"The situation is fairly complicated. It means a change to the cosmonauts' programme," he added.

The scare came just after the crew successfully



The space shuttle Atlantis slowly rolls to the launching pad at dawn Monday at the Kennedy Space Centre. Atlantis is expected to launch on September 18 on a 10-day mission to dock with the beleaguered Russian Mir space station (Reuters photo)

docked a new Progress cargo vessel loaded with fuel.

They had been forced to dock the vessel using manual controls after ground control noticed a fault in the automatic, computerised system just four minutes before the operation was to take place.

An attempt to dock the Progress on Sunday had been called off at the last minute because of a similar computer fault.

Yuri Simonyov, head of Energiya, which runs the Mir programme, said that just before Monday's attempt "it was clear that there were minor breakdowns in the automatic systems at ground control and on the vessel itself."

That was when ground control turned to the three-man crew for help.

They "brilliantly corrected the faults of the automatic systems. The cosmonauts reacted with intelligence and calm. They made a brilliant docking," Mr. Simonyov said.

Docking the six-tonne Progress, which is loaded with fuel for Mir, when both vessels are moving at high speed, has to be carried out with pin-point precision to avoid potentially fatal accidents.

After the June 25 collision, the worst accident in Mir's history, cosmonauts Vasily Tsibilyev and Alexander Lazutkin had to seal off the punctured and depressurised Spektr to save the rest of the

station.

No official reason for the collision has been released, but Mr. Tsibilyev was in control at the time, suggesting human error.

Mr. Blagov said the new crew was not unsettled by the long line of troubles. "We have people with strong nerves," he said.

It was not immediately clear how easily ground control would be able to determine the computer problem and whether the cosmonauts would then be able to fix it.

Mr. Solovoyov and Mr. Vinogradov, who arrived on Mir August 7 to replace the worn-out previous crew, were meant to be concentrating on a series of space walks, starting Wednesday, to repair the Spektr module.

Egypt court to give spy case ruling end of month

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian state security court will this month pass its verdict on an Israeli man and his alleged Egyptian accomplice on charges they spied on Egypt for Israel.

Maharram Darwish, the main judge in a session of the trial held at a Cairo state security court on Monday, said he would hand down the verdict on August 31.

Israeli-Druze textile technician Azam Azam and Egyptian Imam Abdul Halim Ismail are charged with making criminal arrangements to spy for the Israeli intelligence service Mossad.

The case has brought Egypt-Israeli ties to one of their lowest points since their 1979 peace treaty.

Two women — Zahra Yousef Jreiss and Mona Ahmad Shavahna — are on trial in absentia on the same

charges. Like Azam, they are also members of the Druze community.

The trial, which started on April 24, resumed on Sunday and continued on Monday. Azam's lawyer, Farid Deeb, tried to prove his client's innocence by saying that there was no evidence to support Ismail's espionage charge.

Among the charges against Ismail was that he accepted a bribe to spy for Mossad. "He took \$400, \$100 and \$150, but only to help him in his living," Mr. Deeb said.

But the defence for Ismail had said in an earlier session that there was no proof his client took money.

Ismail is also charged with providing information on Egypt's industry to Mossad. Deeb argued in Monday's hearing that such information was publicly

available and presented to the judge a copy of the business directory Kompass on Egypt.

He said any talk between Ismail and Jreiss, who is charged with trying to recruit him, was normal conversation.

"Such a case is harmful to Egypt. Egypt is so strong and deeply rooted to be hurt by a normal conversation," Mr. Deeb said.

Prosecutor Hisham Badawi asked for the maximum punishment for the defendants, saying they deserved no mercy.

Lawyers say Ismail faces 25 years in jail with hard labour. Azam faces a maximum sentence of life in prison, lawyers said.

"We trust your just verdict, for which millions of people are waiting," Mr. Badawi told the court.

Israeli army tears down cowshed in Hebron

HEBRON (R) — Forty Hebron milk cows were made homeless Monday when the Israeli army tore down their shed, a Palestinian dairy farmer said.

"They came this morning suddenly without any alarm and they started taking the cows out," said Mohammad Rajabi, 33.

"They said they were going to demolish the shed because it was built without a licence," he said as the cows scattered.

The army also destroyed a well next to the cowshed that belonged to Mr. Rajabi's brother Jalal, witnesses said.

"Don't cry, let them do what they want. We have God," Mr. Rajabi told his wife and their 10 children as they sat on a stone wall watching soldiers tear down the shed (see story on page 1).

Jewish festival of love accented by right-wing radical sentiments

TEL AVIV (AP) — Love and right-wing extremism made an unlikely union Monday, the Jewish festival of love known as Tu B'Sav.

Outside the prison of where the assassin of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is held in solitary confinement, a group of teenage girls gathered to show their support and send their love.

Several of the young women who came to the prison in the southern city of Beersheva proffered themselves for marriage to 27-year-old Yigal Amir.

Tatiana, a tall 23-year-old in sunglasses and a long skirt who immigrated to Israel from the former Soviet union seven years ago said she would marry Amir.

"I think he has the rights of a human being. I'm a human being and he is a human being and today is the day of love and I want him to feel the day," she told Israel Radio.

Meanwhile, the wedding of Israeli extremist Tatiana Susskind, 26, the art school dropout who inflamed Muslims worldwide in June for posting fliers in Hebron depicting the Prophet

Israelis, Palestinians make music together in Hebron

HEBRON (AP) — It was a strange line-up. Palestinians and Israelis who usually fight each other with stones and bullets, beat African drums together in the Hebron market Monday.

"It's a different way to see the Palestinian kids," said an Israeli soldier as he tapped a Jumbay drum. "They are smiling and they are happy."

The African drums were brought to Hebron by four Israeli musicians who hoped the music would help ease the tensions in the city of 130,000 Palestinians and 450 Jewish settlers.

"Music will bring peace," said Lior Shai, a 26-year-old musician from Tel Aviv. He said the group might try to draw in the Jewish settlers in another visit.

On Monday, Shai and his friends set up the 10 drums in the market and began playing. Soon, they were joined by Palestinian youngsters and the Israeli soldier as a large crowd gathered around them.

But while the beat of drums briefly dispelled tensions in the centre of the city, Israel demolished a Palestinian home just south of Hebron because it was built without a permit.

Mohammad as a pig, was postponed.

Susskind, who is in custody and awaiting trial, plans to marry boyfriend Yehuda Shomron, a 25-year-old bricklayer and, like her, a supporter of the outlawed Arab Kach movement.

The couple wanted to tie the

Iran denies press report on nuclear shopping list

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran dismissed Sunday a report in the Times of London that it made several attempts last year to buy parts from South Africa needed to build nuclear weapons.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) described as "false, baseless and dishonest" the Times report Saturday that quoted next month's issue of the specialist Jane's International Defence Review.

The Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation, quoted by IRNA, said Iran's nuclear activities were "for peaceful purposes and... its activities are under the full control of the International Atomic Energy Agency," the Vienna-based world regulatory body (IAEA).

Citing Jane's, the Times said Iranian Deputy Minister of Atomic Affairs Reza Amrollahi presented a list of items to the head of South Africa's Atomic Energy Corporation Waldo Strumpf,

but that it was immediately rejected.

It said Mr. Strumpf told the paper he had been given "a comprehensive list of items needed for manufacturing nuclear weapons" after a meeting that took place last year in Pelindaba near Pretoria.

"There were some very advanced things asked for — blueprints, industrial, chemical and laboratory equipment, and other essentials required for weapons of mass destruction," Mr. Strumpf told the Times.

IRNA said Mr. Amrollahi had never been to South Africa or had a meeting with Mr. Strumpf, and attributed the newspaper's claims to "Zionist circles."

It said the Iranian Nuclear Organisation "reserves the right to file a complaint against the Times."

Jane's defence review said that Iran has made "considerable progress" in its quest towards developing nuclear weapons.

It quoted South African defence force officials as saying that an undisclosed number of technicians made redundant by the scrapping of the South African nuclear programme have been hired by Iran.

Former President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani assured the IAEA last month that Iran would cooperate "in the exchange of information on its nuclear activities," and denied that Tehran was seeking to build nuclear weapons.

However, the U.S., which has sought to isolate Iran, has warned in the past that the Islamic regime is trying to acquire nuclear weapons.

Late last month the commander of U.S. forces in the Gulf predicted that Tehran will have nuclear weapons around the turn of the century and warned that an Iranian military build up in the Gulf has increased the risk of an incident.



EARLIEST HARVEST: A grape picker pours the first grapes harvested in 1997 in the vineyards of Chateau De La Louviere near Bordeaux Monday. This year's harvest is the earliest of the century in the region and will produce white Pessac-Leognan wine (Reuters photo)



Australia's deputy PM pushes for more toilet talk

CANBERRA (R) — Australia's Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer wants to flush out political views in the new parliament house by blocking up the plumbing in politicians' private toilets. Fischer says the flow of communication has slowed to a trickle in the absence of the communal troughs which were a feature of the old parliament house, vacated in 1988. Fischer added that there was less humour in the new parliament house. "There is less humour in the new parliament house is a design fault which would be greatly helped if we turned off all the plumbing in individual members' and senators' suites," Fischer said.

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